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Japan

Miyazawa Asks Acceptance of U.S. Trade Requests

OW0401090592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0835 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Ise, Mie Pref., Jan. 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa appealed to the Japanese people Saturday to reward friendship with friendship by responding to U.S. requests for Japan's concessions on bilateral economic and trade issues.

Speaking at a news conference after paying the new year homage at the Ise Grand Shrine, Miyazawa said "let's reward friendship provided by the United States to Japan in the form of capital and technological cooperation after World War II with friendship."

The prime minister clearly stated that his government will relax licensing standards for vehicles as a means to expand Japanese imports of U.S. cars and auto parts.

He said the step will be incorporated in an action program to be issued upon a visit to Japan by U.S. President George Bush January 7-10.

Miyazawa reemphasized the importance of close Japan-U.S. relations and said it was the United States that provided Japan with necessary technologies and markets for Japanese products after Japan's surrender in World War II.

Citing a reorganization program by General Motors Corp. which includes massive layoffs of its workers, the prime minister said it is a great loss to the entire world that the United States continues to be in trouble.

"I would like to do whatever I can to help the United States recover its economic and social ills with the cooperation of the Japanese people and industry," he said.

The prime minister took note of efforts made by Japanese automakers to ease Japan-U.S. friction in automotive trade and added that "I hope the Japanese (automobile) industry will make an additional effort" through expansion of its imports from U.S. suppliers.

He referred to Japan's voluntary restraint on automobile exports to the United States and expansion of local car production in the U.S.

Miyazawa showed an understanding of a remark by Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Thursday suggesting Japan's agreement to growing international pressure to replace its import ban on rice with tariffs.

Miyazawa said Japan is in a position to make the ongoing Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks a success and Watanabe's remark offered an issue for discussion.

Summit Talks, 'Test' for Miyazawa Analyzed

OW0501022692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0145 GMT 5 Jan 92

[By Miu Oikawa]

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 5 KYODO—U.S. President George Bush's upcoming visit to Japan puts to the test his strong bid to rejuvenate the staggering U.S. economy as well as Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's widely expected diplomatic skill.

For Bush, the trip [words indistinct] of his rescheduled four-nation Asian Pacific tour is crucial to his race for reelection, where he would face a field of protectionist-oriented rivals. The trip also comes at a time when his approval ratings are at the lowest in his presidency.

He had earlier postponed his trip to Australia, Singapore, South Korea, and Japan—originally scheduled to begin in late November—amid criticism that he is putting too much emphasis on foreign affairs.

For Miyazawa, the Bush visit is the first by a Western head of state to Tokyo since he assumed premiership in early November. His aides hope it will provide a chance to tighten his political grip at home by demonstrating his diplomatic skill with his good command of English.

Like Bush, Miyazawa has experienced sagging public support, as evidenced by a recent national daily poll which showed public support for his cabinet falling to 44 percent due chiefly to his "poor" leadership.

Whether or not Bush's trip will help boost the images of the two leaders depends largely on the outcome of three rounds of summit talks in which trade and economic issues are likely to take center stage, many observers say.

"The focus of the summit talks," said a senior Foreign Ministry official, "is to demonstrate to the world that Japan and U.S. could jointly face up to the challenges which we see in the remaining period of this century and much more beyond."

Characterizing his Asian Pacific trip as aiming to generate new jobs for Americans by increasing purchases of U.S. manufactured goods abroad, Bush is likely to press Japan to open up its markets and take new measures to ease bilateral trade frictions, bringing with him the message that "free trade is a two-way street."

To highlight Bush's self-proclaimed "jobs for Americans" tour, a group of 21 top business executives of major U.S. industries, including chairmen of the "Big Three" automakers, will join the president's entourage.

Japan posted a 41 billion dollar trade surplus with the U.S. in 1990, with the automobile sector accounting for 75 percent of the total, according to U.S. statistics.

For the first 10 months of 1991, the U.S. trade deficit with Japan ran at 35.6 billion dollars, which accounts for 63 percent of its overall deficit.

Miyazawa began the new year with a call to Japanese carmakers to help boost sales and purchase of U.S.-made cars and auto parts in Japan and to "take more seriously and compassionately" the U.S. situations.

Japan views Bush's four-day visit, the first state visit by a U.S. president since 1983, as a good occasion to launch a global partnership between the two countries in the post-cold war era, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The officials said the two leaders are expected to discuss bilateral, regional and global issues, ranging from how to deal with the Middle East, the republics of the former Soviet Union, the U.S.-Japan security cooperation, problems involving Asian nations such as the Korean peninsula, China and Cambodia, and environmental and scientific issues.

Also on the agenda for the talks will be the protracted Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks and a review of the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) for freer trade and investment between Japan and the U.S.

Japan is committed to expand domestic spending and ease investment and trade barriers under the SII process negotiated between the two countries in 1990.

"We should hold on to the principle of free trade," a senior Foreign Ministry official said. "Therefore, whatever the initiatives that business sectors would have in order to ease tensions between the two countries will be a welcomed one."

Washington is also likely to push Tokyo to join in financing the 8.25 billion dollar Superconducting Super Collider (SSC) project now under construction in Texas.

The SSC, which consists of an 87-kilometer circular tunnel lined with superconducting magnets, is designed to probe the origin of the universe and the ultimate structure of matter by hurling protons at each other at velocities approaching the speed of light.

The U.S. hopes to finance 1.6 billion dollars of the total cost through participation of foreign countries, including Japan.

On Thursday, Bush and Miyazawa are scheduled to release joint statements—the so-called "Tokyo Declaration" outlining basic directions for future bilateral cooperation, and an "action plan" which encompasses specific economic, political and diplomatic measures to be taken.

A Foreign Ministry official said the documents have been more or less finalized, with some minor phrase problems left to be settled.

Miyazawa Promises Cooperation in Solving Issues

OW0601130692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1300 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 6 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday that Japan will cooperate in every way to expand auto exports from the U.S. and resolve other trade issues.

The remark came in a joint press conference with Tokyo-based American reporters on the eve of President George Bush's arrival here for talks with Japanese political and business leaders.

Miyazawa said Japan will make every effort to expand its imports of U.S.-made automobiles and car parts to rectify the massive bilateral trade surplus in Japan's favor.

The prime minister said he was "very well" aware that Bush is in political trouble as a result of the prolonged economic recession and huge federal deficit.

Miyazawa said the U.S. helped Japan attain economic prosperity in the 40-year postwar period, adding that now would be a good time to return the favor.

He also said both countries should reconfirm their partnership in shaping a new post-cold war international order since the combined gross national products (GNP) of the two nations constitutes more than 40 percent of the world's total.

Partly due to an increase in local production in the U.S. by Japanese makers, Japan's auto shipments to that country are expected to decline to around 1.7 million this fiscal year from 1.85 million in fiscal 1990, Japanese industry sources said.

U.S. automakers want Japan to import more U.S.-made vehicles to help compensate for the downturn in the American auto market, the sources said.

'Balanced' Agenda Said Key to Summit Success

OW0601104592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1039 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 6 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and U.S. President George Bush will have a successful summit meeting here if they tackle political and economic issues in a "balanced manner" during their scheduled talks on Wednesday and Thursday, a top Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

The official was speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity in advance of Bush's arrival in Japan on Tuesday.

He was responding to concern evident among many Japanese that Bush, whose visit falls during an election year, may opt to emphasize short-term bilateral trade issues at the expense of forging a crucial consensus on the two countries' relationship in the post-cold war world era.

The official noted with satisfaction the fact that some U.S. commentators are now voicing similar doubts about the advisability of Bush's coming down too hard on Japan at a time when it is increasingly important to prop up bilateral ties.

The official said the agenda of the Miyazawa-Bush talks is expected to consist of two pillars, one of which will undoubtedly be discussions about the pressing problems of the U.S. economy and the massive bilateral trade imbalance.

The other pillar, he said, is to comprise a broad overview of the present Japan-U.S. relationship and an exchange of views as to how it should develop in the post-cold war era.

The official said that overview will conceptualize a "framework for cooperation" in which the two countries can link up to build a new international order.

The two leaders are expected to discuss mutual efforts to facilitate the settlement of regional conflicts, help bring the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks to a successful conclusion, assist the former republics of the Soviet Union, collaborate in the advancement of science and technology, slow down the destruction of the environment, and fight the drug scourge.

Business Urges Government Cooperation With U.S.

OW0601120192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1152 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 6 KYODO—Leaders of the four influential Japanese business organizations on Monday called on the government to show "visible" cooperation with the United States during President George Bush's four-day visit to Tokyo, starting Tuesday.

Talking to the press after an annual New Year party, the leaders emphasized the importance of resolving the bilateral auto trade imbalance and making progress on the issue of opening Japan's rice market.

The business leaders were Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Nissho), Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), and Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Doyukai).

Referring to the auto trade issue, Hiraiwa said, "discussions have been deepened at the industry level. I believe the two countries will make progress on the issue."

Hayami urged Japan to make "visible cooperation" in three ways—increasing auto production in the U.S., helping U.S. car sales in Japan, and furthering procurement of imported cars by the Japanese Government.

As for the rice market issue, Hayami called on the government to accept tariffication suggested by Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in the final draft proposal of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

Nikkeiren's Nagano concurred, saying, "agricultural rationalization will help (Japanese agricultural sector) to get by the tariffication."

Nissho's Ishikawa, however, said it is a kind of problem that should be solved by the government and that the business world should not intervene.

On the matter of bilateral relations, Hiraiwa stressed the increasing need for private-level communication with the U.S., saying that both sides should try to solve problems before they assumed serious proportions.

Calling the auto trade a "structural bilateral problem" contributing 30 billion dollars to the U.S. trade deficit with Japan, Hayami said Japan should consider American feelings and make an "adult-like" deal with Washington.

On the domestic front, Hiraiwa said he expects the Japanese economy to pick up in the latter half of this year. The other leaders agreed, with Hayami predicting that the nation's economy will gradually regain "cruising speed" of growth—sustainable growth without inflation.

Official on Trade, U.S. Presidential Election

OW0601115892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1139 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 6 KYODO—Japan is considering scenarios for the U.S. presidential election late this year in making its response to trade demands expected to be pressed by President George Bush during his January 7-10 visit to Tokyo, a top Foreign Ministry official indicated Monday.

The official, who spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity, said it is not unreasonable to assume that if Bush loses the election, his successor would be considerably tougher on Japan when it comes to trade issues.

The remarks were taken as a sign that Japan will be conciliatory toward Bush's anticipated demands on access to Japan's markets for autos, auto parts, rice, computers, glass, and other commodities, as well as toward Bush's expected call for partial Japanese funding of the multibillion dollar superconducting super collider project in his home state of Texas.

Meanwhile, the official said that Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, who recently visited Beijing, was told by Chinese leaders that they too are well-disposed toward Bush when they consider the upcoming U.S. election.

Bush had worked hard to ward off considerable congressional pressure to drop China's most-favored nation status to protest the human rights situation there.

The official confirmed that China will be on the agenda of the talks between Bush and Prime Minister Kiichi

Miyazawa, where a message to Bush from Chinese leaders passed to Watanabe in Beijing will be conveyed to the American leader.

He said Miyazawa will explain to Bush that any further deterioration of the Sino-American relationship would not be to the benefit of either country, nor Japan.

Auto Import Standards Eased Before Bush Visit

OW0401150292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1446 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 4 KYODO—Japan has decided to significantly ease regulations regarding standards and certification for imported motor vehicles to help reduce its trade surplus with the United States, officials said Saturday.

They said the regulation modifications include approving U.S. testing standards for brakes, international inspection of headrests, and other measures.

Japanese officials said they expect the new steps to meet roughly 80 percent of American requests which came in advance of President George Bush's visit to Japan which starts Tuesday.

They said the simplified measures will be mentioned in an "action program" to be released by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Bush following their two rounds of talks in Tokyo.

Mazda Plans Parts Uniform With Those of Ford

OW0401033092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0240 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 4 KYODO—Mazda Motor Corp. plans to make parts for its subcompact cars uniform with those used for cars made by its American financial partner, Ford Motor Co., a leading economic daily reported Saturday.

The Japanese automaker will import and load parts used for Ford's escort model in its leading car model, Familia, which could be completely overhauled as early as 1993, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said.

Subcompact cars have engine displacements of 661-2000 cc.

By using the same parts as Ford, Mazda will be able to step up its imports of U.S.-made auto parts and cut Ford's parts procurement costs, which would result from mass production of those parts.

Japanese carmakers are studying new ways of cooperating with their U.S. counterparts in advance of the visit to Japan by U.S. President George Bush and leaders of the "Big Three" U.S. automakers next week.

Mazda's plan is expected to attract attention since it will help manufacturers of both U.S. cars and auto parts, the paper said.

The paper also reported that Mitsubishi Motors Corp. will begin importing front-wheel wheel bearings from Timken Co. of the U.S. beginning in February.

In 1993 the Japanese automaker will also start placing air bag systems manufactured by TRW Inc., a U.S. maker of automotive, aviation, and aerospace equipment, in Mitsubishi cars produced in the U.S., it said.

Toyota Plans To Open Dealerships to Big Three

OW0601004392 Tokyo KYODO in English 2351 GMT 05 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 6 KYODO—Toyota Motor Corp., responding to U.S. trade pressure, plans to open its domestic dealerships to the Big Three U.S. automakers, a leading newspaper reported Monday.

Quoting an unnamed Toyota executive, the nationally circulated YOMIURI SHIMBUN said Toyota will present the idea when its executives meet Thursday with top executives from U.S.-based General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co., and Chrysler Corp.

Toyota would begin selling Big Three cars as early as this summer if the U.S. company executives agree on the plan, the newspaper said. Toyota runs some 5,200 dealer outlets across Japan, the largest dealer network in the nation.

Meanwhile, a report in the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said Toyota has come up with a set of new measures aimed at increasing its purchases of U.S. auto parts in a bid to alleviate auto trade disputes between Japan and the United States.

Under the new program, Toyota will teach smaller U.S. parts suppliers about production controls and quality improvement, paving the way for the companies to develop and sell products to Toyota, the business daily said.

It said the instruction will be offered free of charge. So far, Toyota has purchased U.S. parts only from big companies with higher technical standards.

Toyota will also organize a group of U.S. parts makers to supply products to Toyota's U.S. factories, and will provide group companies with data about new cars and business plans which will make it easier for the companies to develop the kind of parts that Toyota wants, the newspaper said.

Rivalry Developing in Auto Water Paint Sales

OW0501020292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0106 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Osaka, Jan. 5 KYODO—Competition is intensifying among Japanese paint manufacturers for commanding a greater share in the lucrative market for water paints for automobiles, industry analysts say.

Japanese auto plants started using water paints around 1988, following their U.S. and European counterparts.

Use of such paints in the U.S. and Europe has been prompted by government restrictions on conventional organic paints, because organic paints generate hydrocarbon, a cause of photochemical smog, when they dry up.

At present, however, Japanese car manufacturers have no mind to make haste in introducing water paints, fearing the products could become another source of trade friction with the U.S. and the European Community (EC).

The automakers largely plan to introduce water paints on a full scale when they improve or build new auto factories and production lines, the analysts say.

Domestic sales of automobile paints were estimated at 200 billion yen in 1990. The world's consumption of such paints in 1990 totaled 1.12 million tons, of which 420,000 tons were consumed in Japan.

Currently, Kansai Paint Co. and Nippon Paint Co. boast a 40 percent share each in the domestic market.

Kansai Paint and Nippon Paint have joined with E.I. Du Pont De Nemours and Co. and PPG Industries, Inc., both of the U.S., to develop water paints for automobiles.

Water paints for U.S. and European auto assembly plants of Japanese car makers are being supplied by the two U.S. manufacturers.

Nippon Oil and Fats Co., which holds a 10 percent share in the domestic auto paint market, and Dai Nippon Toryo Co., which has a 5 percent share, are aiming to boost their shares by linking up with two major German makers, BASF A.G. and Hoechst A.G.

Among the four domestic makers, Kansai Paint is now leading the other three because it has already supplied water paints to Honda Motor Co.'s domestic plant.

"The entry of German makers causes some concern. But they would face difficulties meeting materials standards set by Japanese automakers," said a Kansai Paint official.

But, a Dai Nippon Toryo official voiced his confidence, saying the company will be able to satisfy such standards if it succeeds in developing spraying technology that is seen as essential for improving efficiency in the auto-painting process in Japan's highly humid summer.

Automakers To Unveil Plans Boosting U.S. Sales

OW0601053092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0507 GMT 06 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 6 KYODO—Five major Japanese automakers, under pressure from both the government and their U.S. competitors, will offer to boost sales of U.S. vehicles in a bid to assuage auto trade disputes, industry sources said Monday.

The program will go beyond the business cooperation already promised by Japan, since it details specific sales targets on a company-by-company basis, including the number of vehicles and when the companies will begin to sell U.S. cars, the sources said.

The sales targets are to be presented to top executives of the "Big Three" U.S. automakers when they meet their Japanese counterparts Thursday, they said.

The five companies involved in the offer are Toyota Motor Corp., Nissan Motor Co., Honda Motor Co., Mitsubishi Motors Corp., and Mazda Motor Corp.

The heads of the three U.S. automakers will accompany President George Bush when he arrives in Tokyo Tuesday. Bush has said he will make Japan's massive trade surplus, particularly in the auto sector, a focus of his visit.

Besides revealing the sales targets, the five automakers will also assure the big three leaders that they will be able to sell their cars through domestic dealerships run by Japanese companies, the sources said, adding that automaker-dominated dealer networks have been cited as a trade barrier to U.S.-made car imports.

The Japanese companies appear to be counting on the sales- boosting proposals as a way to head off a flare-up in auto trade disputes between Tokyo and Washington.

The plans "could persuade the Americans to understand our efforts," said an executive from one of the five companies.

Toyota, which makes cars in the U.S. under a joint venture with General Motors Corp., will offer to sell GM cars, while Nissan and Mazda, two companies with close business ties with Ford Motor Co., will propose selling Ford models, according to the sources.

Mitsubishi and Honda will offer to sell cars made by Chrysler Corp. since they have business links with Chrysler, they said.

The sources said the sales programs will be included in an action program to be announced at the conclusion of summit talks between Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and President Bush, who are expected to discuss ways to rectify the trade imbalance.

In addition to the plans involving finished vehicles, the five automakers will offer to raise targets for their purchases of U.S. auto parts, they said. Plans announced last November called for the purchase of parts valued at 17.17 billion dollars in fiscal 1994.

Japan's trade surplus in the auto and auto parts sector accounts for roughly 75 percent of the U.S.'s 40 billion dollar annual trade surplus, according to U.S. statistics.

Miyazawa Consults Officials on Auto Imports

OW0601051892 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Miyazawa has been holding final round of consultations from this morning with Japanese

Ambassador to Washington Murata and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry and the International Trade and Industry Ministry at his official residence on how the Japanese side should deal with the economic issue centering on automobiles. At the consultations, the prime minister and other government officials are believed to be discussing how far the import screen standard for safety and environment in connection with the import of foreign-made cars should be reviewed and how the government should ask for Japanese automakers' cooperation in boosting the import of foreign-made cars and auto parts.

In this connection, a government source this morning said: Specific figures including the import target of American-made auto parts will be incorporated in action plans which are set to be announced along with the Tokyo Declaration. The same source also added that the government intends to incorporate concrete measures to improve the import screen system for imported cars in the declaration.

Government Said Setting U.S. Import Targets

OW0601070092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0632 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 6 KYODO—Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe said Monday Japan will set specific targets for its imports of U.S.-made auto and auto parts to allay growing U.S. frustration over the persistent auto trade imbalance with Japan.

Watanabe said at a press conference that the government is striving to work out targets for private-sector purchases of U.S. cars and auto components over a period of about five years.

"Our promise to make efforts alone cannot work. The U.S. and Japanese people would not be convinced unless we present concrete figures," he said, referring to the auto trade gap as a "source of headaches."

The bilateral row over the auto trade imbalance, which accounts for about 75 percent of the total Japan-U.S. trade gap, is likely to top the agenda when U.S. President George Bush visits Japan from Tuesday.

However, Vice Minister of International Trade and Industry Yuji Tanahashi contradicted Watanabe's remarks, saying that the government is not asking the auto industry to set specific targets.

"We have requested the industry to study various forms of cooperation to correct the dispute. What kind of cooperation they will come up with is entirely up to them," he said.

"I guess the minister's remarks are a sort of wishful thinking," he added.

Autc Sales Suffer First Decline in Seven Years

OW0601081092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0753 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 6 KYODO—Japan's new auto sales in 1991 suffered the first year-to-year fall in seven years due to the sluggish sales of small cars, an industry association reported Monday.

The Japan Automobile Dealers Association said the 1991 auto sales, excluding minivehicles, fell 3.9 percent from 1990 to 5,744,948 vehicles.

Industry officials blamed the drop on the collapse of the "bubble economy" which saw real estate and stock prices surge, a shortage of parking space in big cities, and high interest rates on loans to car buyers.

They said there was little chance for a sales recovery in the immediate future.

For 1991, car sales fell 6.5 percent from the previous year to 4,027,895 vehicles.

Sales of cars with engine displacements of 2001 cc or more jumped 42.0 percent to 663,610, because more new models were introduced in the year. But small cars of 661-2000 cc decreased 12.4 percent in sales to 3,364,285.

Truck sales rose 3.0 percent to 1,693,257 to renew an annual sales record for the third straight year, amid a sales boom for four-wheel-drive leisure vehicles.

Bus sales fell 4.5 percent to 23,796 vehicles.

The industry association also said new auto sales in December fell 8.5 percent from a year earlier to 423,825 vehicles, marking the eighth consecutive year-on-year fall in monthly sales.

Among the five major automakers, Mitsubishi Motors Corp. was the only company to record a year-to-year increase in sales, excluding minivehicles, thanks to increased sales of medium-sized cars and four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Toyota Motor Corp. retained the largest chunk of the market in the year, selling 2,355,282, down 5.9 percent from 1990, followed by Nissan Motor Co. with 1,344,852, down 4.2 percent, and Mitsubishi with 479,799, up 12.6 percent.

Mazda Motor Corp. was next with 474,069 vehicles, down 5.8 percent, followed by Honda Motor Co. 436,326, down 1.7 percent.

Executive: Car Sales Depend on U.S. Initiative

OW0601121492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1201 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 6 KYODO—Japanese and U.S. business leaders will join a meeting on industry scheduled for Thursday between International Trade and Industry

Minister Kozo Watanabe and U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher, government sources said Monday.

U.S. business executives will accompany U.S. President George Bush and cabinet officials on a four-day visit starting Tuesday.

Mosbacher, together with top executives of General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co., and Chrysler Corp., will also meet representatives of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association on Thursday evening, the sources said.

Both sides are expected to exchange opinions on how to correct the bilateral imbalance in trade of automobiles and car parts, including boosting Japan's purchases of U.S.-made parts and promoting imports of U.S.-made cars, they said.

The U.S. has indicated that it is prepared to push for specific concessions, especially regarding the automobile trade, they said.

The head of the Japan Automobile Dealers Association (JADA) said Monday in Tokyo that Japan's market is quite open to cars made anywhere and that there is no import barrier whatsoever.

Sluggish sales of U.S. cars in Japan are due partly to the fact that right-hand drives, common in Japan, have not been offered by U.S. automakers, Kenichiro Ueno, JADA president, told reporters.

He said U.S. automakers should be more active in approaching Japanese dealers.

If American automakers did so, many Japanese dealers would be ready and willing to discuss the profit ratio and other sales terms with them, he said.

Ueno made the remark the day before the scheduled visit to Japan by U.S. President George Bush and his entourage.

JADA has about 2,000 members.

Officials Give Opinions on Rice Tariffication

Tokyo Should Accept Tariffication

OW0401015892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0119 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 4 KYODO—Some officials within the government believe Japan should accept a proposal calling for conversion of all nontariff trade barriers on farm products, including rice, into tariffs, a leading daily reported Saturday.

According to a government source, the officials say Japan should agree to the proposal by January 13 when General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)-sponsored global trade talks are to resume, the MAINICHI SHIMBUN said.

GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel put forward the comprehensive tariff proposal last month.

The United States and the European Community (EC) are currently at loggerheads over the issue of farm export subsidies.

The officials contend that Japan will be able to win favorable concessions from the U.S. and other countries and reduce the impact on Japanese farmers, if it takes the lead and shows its willingness to accept the proposal, the source said.

Officials in the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party are said to be considering making final adjustments next week on a Japanese response to the plan with an eye toward agreeing to it.

In a related development, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Friday said Japan has no choice but to compromise on the comprehensive tariff plan, the paper also reported.

He made his remarks in an address before a group of his supporters in his home district of Utsunomiya, Tochigi Prefecture.

Caution on Tariffication Urged

OW0601082692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0810 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 6 KYODO—Senior finance and agriculture officials cautioned the government Monday against bowing to growing external pressure on Japan to open its rice market.

Yoshihiro Hamaguchi, vice minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, told reporters it is questionable to think that tariffication is preferable for Japan over a partial opening of its rice market.

Hamaguchi made the remark in connection with reports that Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe have suggested that Japan might accept the tariffication of rice imports as proposed at the Uruguay Round of trade talks held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Hamaguchi stressed the need for Japan to be fully prepared for the consequences brought about by tariffication on the domestic agricultural policy.

He predicted that discussions on the issue will continue at the GATT's Trade Negotiations Committee.

A senior Finance Ministry official said Japan should clarify the conditions under which it would approve rice imports.

The official, who declined to be named, warned the government against making a political decision on the issue in view of uncertain factors, including stable food supply sources in the future.

Masami Tanabu, minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, meanwhile, reiterated Japan's opposition to liberalization of rice imports.

Tanabu said his ministry has not yet received instructions from the government to study whether to remove the existing ban on rice imports.

Study on Allowing Rice Liberalization Begins

OW0601112792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1113 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Tokyo, Jan. 6 KYODO—The government has begun to study a possibility of Japan liberalizing its rice market in compliance with a proposal introduced in the ongoing Uruguay Round multilateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), sources said Monday.

The sources said the study is being made by aides of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in preparation for a visit to Japan by U.S. President George Bush starting Tuesday.

The opening of Japan's rice market will be one of major topics to be broached by Bush in his talks with Miyazawa in Tokyo, they said.

The study stemmed from a proposal by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel for the introduction of tariffs to replace barriers to farm trade as a step to break an impasse over farm trade in the Uruguay Round trade talks.

The sources said the study being made by Miyazawa's aides is focused on two alternatives—a partial opening of the rice market and imposition of a 700 percent tariff on imported rice. [passage omitted]

The sources said the government intends to avoid revising the foodstuff control law under which the government controls the rice distribution system and maintains prices at high levels with the aim of supporting farmers. [passage omitted]

In a related development, a senior Foreign Ministry official said the government is required to make a political decision on the rice issue before the trade talks resume January 13.

The official, who declined to be identified by name, said the implementation of tariffs on farm imports will be adopted by a major vote even if Japan alone opposes it.

Japan should make a choice between a partial opening of the rice market or tariffication before such a decision is required, the official said.

His remark suggested Japan should study whether to accept the tariffication on the presumption it will open its rice market to imports.

Kato on 'Objective Review' of Rice Tariff Issue

OW0601080492 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] In reference to Foreign Minister Watanabe's recent remarks indicating a softened stand on the rice tariffication issue, in a news conference this morning, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato said that the government is giving an objective review to the possible impact the tariffication may have on farmers, but insisted that the review is not on the premise of accepting such tariffication.

Kato thus emphasized that the government has no intention of changing its policy immediately.

Speaking at the news conference, Mr. Kato said that the government is giving an objective and careful study to the possible impact domestic farmers will face if the nation accepts the final draft agreement presented by GATT General Secretary Dunkel. He added, however, that the study is not being conducted on the premise that the tariffication will be accepted.

He said that under the given situation of the Diet, it will be difficult to effect a legislative action to revise the current food management system. He again stressed the position that it will be difficult for the government to accept the tariffication.

On the other hand, however, asked whether the government would accept General Secretary Dunkel's final draft agreement as a package, he replied that the government wants to strongly insist at the negotiations beginning in Geneva on 13 January, that a clause allowing restrictions of imports on such staple foods as rice should be included in the revision of the final agreement.

Mr. Kato's remarks are interpreted as saying that even though General Secretary Dunkel's final draft agreement cannot be accepted as it is, if a clause allowing an exception on such production-regulated food as rice can be added to it, there is room for compromise.

NTT To Begin Procurement of Foreign Computers

OW0401060392 Tokyo KYODO in English 2355 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 4 KYODO—Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) has decided it will begin procuring computers this year from foreign as well as domestic manufacturers, a leading economic daily reported Saturday.

The telecommunications giant will use an international tender to procure computers that can conform to the firm's new software system, thus giving overseas makers an opportunity to take part in its bidding process, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said.

The company will publish an advertisement for its first international tender, which it plans to hold soon, in an official gazette.

NTT expects to procure about 500 billion yen worth of computers in the next 10 years.

The United States has been pressuring the Japanese Government to step up its purchases of U.S. computers.

Although the topic is expected to come up during U.S. President George Bush's January 7-10 visit to Japan, NTT is trying to ease tensions on the issue by taking the lead and giving foreign makers a chance to take part in its tender.

Mitsubishi Electric Boosting Imports, Production

OW0601090892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0851 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 6 KYODO—Mitsubishi Electric Corp. announced Monday it will increase its imports and its goods produced overseas in an effort to defuse Japan-U.S. trade disputes.

The plan, dubbed Business Global Partnership, calls for a 27 percent increase from fiscal 1991 import levels, which are estimated at 166 billion yen, to 210 billion yen in fiscal 1992.

There is to be a special focus on the import of such finished goods as computers, electric fans, and refrigerators, whose import value is expected to rise from 10.5 billion yen in fiscal 1991 to 25.7 billion yen in the next fiscal year and 39 billion yen in fiscal 1993, the company said.

As part of its plan to increase the amount of goods it produces overseas, Mitsubishi Electric will transfer all production of the company's electric fans to its Thai subsidiary.

Mitsubishi Electric will also increase the number of integrated circuits it obtains from an American Telephone and Telegraph Co. factory in Thailand from 500,000 units per month to five million units per month, the company said.

It will also purchase integrated circuits televisions from Daimler-Benz AG of Germany, the Japanese electric firm said.

The Business Global Partnership plan is part of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI)'s strategy of dealing with the criticism of Japan's trade surplus which has burgeoned from 63 billion dollars in 1990 to a likely 100 billion dollars in 1991.

MITI approached 40 of Japan's major companies, particularly those in the electronics and car industries, to prepare measures to increase imports prior to President George Bush's Japan visit in January.

Dealers To Promote Imported Paper Product Sale

OW0601095392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0942 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 6 KYODO—A group of Japanese paper product dealers said Monday it will help promote sales of imported paper products in Japan.

The Japan Federation of Paper Dealers Associations said the decision is in line with a request by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) for help in opening the Japanese market to imports.

The federation said its member firms will respond positively to any request from foreign makers for help in promoting sales of their products in Japan.

The federation will also promote cooperative relations with foreign makers in processing and distributing their products, it said.

It said the federation will provide information on foreign products to its clients.

Tokyo To Propose Joint Study of SSC Project

OW0601122692 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] The government, in a meeting of ministries and other offices today, discussed the question of Japan's participation in the construction of the superconducting supercollider [SSC] project at the request of the United States. At the meeting, the government decided to propose that Japan and the United States first set up a joint working group to study various aspects, including Japan's financial contribution.

New LDP Panel To Study Global Contributions

OW0501052692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0459 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 5 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will set up an intraparty team to study measures to boost Japanese international contributions, LDP sources said Sunday.

The group will try to draw up concrete measures by the end of summer, when the government ministries and agencies submit their budgetary requests for fiscal 1993 to the Finance Ministry, the sources said.

The task force follows the failure of a government plan in December to establish a new tax to pay for Japanese contributions overseas.

The scheme to raise tobacco and beer taxes and other measures to contribute to international peacekeeping projects were scrapped late last year in compiling the fiscal 1992 national budget because of strong criticism from members of the party's research commission on the tax system.

Yoshiro Mori, chairman of the party's policy-making Policy Affairs Research Council, has instructed Hajime Funada, head of the party's Foreign Affairs Committee, to prepare to set up the new panel, the sources said.

Hata Says Currency Market Reflects Fundamentals

OW0601062792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0600 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 6 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Monday that the current trend in the foreign exchange market reflects the economic fundamentals of major industrial countries.

Hata's statement at a press conference indicates that he considers the yen's upswing against the U.S. dollar is acceptable.

The dollar ended morning trading in Tokyo at 124.17 yen, down 1.08 yen from the closing rate of 125.25 yen on December 31, the last trading day.

Hata also said U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady will probably join President George Bush on his visit to Japan beginning Tuesday.

Brady is not among the entourage on Bush's tour of the Asia- Pacific region and will probably fly directly from Washington to Tokyo to join Bush's team, Hata said.

Hata said he will tell Brady about Japan's macroeconomic policy aimed to achieve noninflationary, sustainable growth, as reflected in the relatively generous outlay for public works projects in the fiscal 1992 government budget and the recent cut in the official discount rate.

He denied reports that the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries have decided to hold a meeting of top financial officials in late January.

Hata also said he does not expect Brady to call for bilateral talks on adding new issues to be covered by the framework of the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII).

He said what is important now is the follow-through on the SII agreement made in June last year.

BOJ Reacts Calmly to Surge in Yen's Value

OW0601042292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0413 GMT 06 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 6 KYODO—Bank of Japan [BOJ] sources reacted calmly Monday to the surge in the value of the yen against the U.S. dollar in the first day of New Year trading in Tokyo.

The U.S. dollar at one time skidded to 123.95 yen, the lowest in three years on the Tokyo market.

The sources said the sharp rise in the yen's value reflected market speculation connected with U.S. President George Bush's visit that Japan and the United States may agree to realign the exchange rate to increase the yen's value in an effort to reduce Japan's trade surplus. Bush is scheduled to visit Japan starting Tuesday.

Considering Japanese and U.S. economic fundamentals, a steady rise in the value of the yen would not be surprising, the sources said.

They said, however, the increase in the value of the yen has been slowed by reports that there is little incentive for buying any foreign currency except the U.S. dollar, amid the political instability in the former Soviet Union.

The sources discounted speculation about a possible Japan-U.S. agreement to fix a foreign exchange value. They admitted, however, that such speculation could increase if any comments suggesting approval of the current foreign exchange level are made at the upcoming summit.

They said expectations of lower interest rates in Japan have been mostly erased by the half-point official discount rate cut made by the Bank of Japan on December 30.

The sources said the present foreign exange level may continue for the time being.

Mitsubishi Asks Benz Firm To Produce Chips

OW0601141192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1338 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 6 KYODO—Mitsubishi Electric Corp. (Melco) on Monday announced a basic agreement with AEG AG to commission the major German electrical manufacturer in the Daimler-Benz group to manufacture integrated circuits (ICs) for television.

A formal "second sourcing" agreement is expected to be concluded later in the month.

Under the agreement, an AEG subsidiary will start production of several hundred thousand ICs per month in April to Melco specifications for distribution in Europe under the brand name of Mitsubishi.

Second sourcing is granting a license to another manufacturer to produce an electronic item or component when production capacity is not great enough to meet demand.

Melco is the third Mitsubishi firm to tie up with the Daimler-Benz group. Mitsubishi Motors Corp. is the first and Mitsubishi Corp. the second.

The Mitsubishi and Daimler-Benz groups have studied the possibility of tying up in 11 fields under an agreement reached at a top-level meeting in March 1990.

Melco and AEG have explored the possibility of tying up in four of the fields—ICs, refrigerators, the exchange of engineers concerned with space and the mutual supply of parts of new transportation systems, centered on tramcars.

The two have already given up a proposal for refrigerator tie-ups, and are negotiating for possible tie-ups over the two other items, company officials said.

Team To Go to Vietnam Regarding Aid Resumption

OW0401021792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0110 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 4 KYODO—Japan will send an official fact-finding team to Vietnam by March to prepare for the resumption of economic assistance to Hanoi, government sources said Saturday.

The team will consist of officials from the Foreign Ministry's Economic Cooperation Bureau and other agencies concerned, the sources said.

The team will discuss Vietnam's fund demands and its nearly 20 billion yen debt, they said.

Japan froze its Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Vietnam, except for humanitarian aid, after it invaded Cambodia in December 1978 to oust the Khmer Rouge government and install a Hanoi-backed government in Phnom Penh.

In fiscal 1978, Japan gave 10 billion yen in a yen loan to Vietnam and 4 billion yen in a grant-in-aid.

Shortly before Vietnam's invasion into Cambodia, Japan pledged to provide Vietnam with 14 billion yen in ODA for fiscal 1979.

Deportation of Palestinians 'Deeply' Deplored

OW0601142192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1407 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 6 KYODO—Japan "deeply deplores" Israel's decision last week to deport 12 Palestinian activists from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement released Monday.

The statement said that Israel's January 2 decision "infringes on international laws relevant to the treatment of the residents in the occupied territories," while at the same time ignoring humanitarian considerations.

It warned that the decision could have a negative impact on the Middle East peace process, which picked up steam last autumn when an historic regional peace conference was held in Madrid. Peace talks connected with the conference had been set to resume this month.

The latest Israeli expulsion decision has drawn strong international criticism as a violation of the fourth Geneva convention, which governs the behavior of occupying powers, but Israeli leaders have vowed not to bow to pressure to revoke it.

Israel says the decision was made in connection with Palestinian attacks on Israeli soldiers and on fellow Palestinians.

North Korea

Pak Song-chol Praises Kim Il-song's Speech

SK0301155992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 3 (KCNA)—The highly important guideline set out by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his historical New Year address as regards the national reunification is a sure guarantee for ensuring peace in the country and successfully solving the national question, the reunification question by the efforts of the nation itself, said Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president, in a statement issued to the press today.

He said the independent stand is a fundamental position that must firmly be held to in effecting the North-South agreement and in bringing about the reunification cause.

Those people who want to contribute to national reunification should thoroughly reject the dependence on foreign forces and hold on to the stand of national independence, he said, adding: They must not rely on the outside forces who are responsible for national division, but instead depend on the internal forces of the nation.

Noting that the great leader stressed it as the important thing to be settled primarily in achieving national reunification to create the premise for a peaceful reunification, he contended that the North and the South take positive steps of drastically reducing the level of military power to such an extent impossible for invasion of the other party in accordance with the spirit of the agreement so as to practically guarantee nonaggression and make every effort to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

Since the problem of Korea's reunification is historically related with the international relationship, the assistance of the countries concerned is needed, he said, and went on:

The countries concerned must respect the spirit of the North-South agreement and actively help our nation to settle the reunification problem independently and peacefully.

To this end, they must discard the anachronistic stand of facing the Korean problem on the position of strength from an outmoded viewpoint of the cold war era and, moreover, stop such acts as putting unjust pressure upon us, arguing about the nuclear inspection.

As clarified by the great leader, we mean what we say, we do not say empty words. It is inconceivable that we refrain from doing what we should do because of the others' pressure nor do what we must not do for the same reason.

The solemn declaration made by the great leader convince us of the unshakable revolutionary principles and the indomitable will of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the Republic which regard dignity and independence of the nation as the lifeblood and makes us more deepl feel the unbounded pride and confidence of the great nation advancing convincingly under the banner of the immortal chuche idea.

The great leader's clarification of the question of achieving the great unity of our nation as a sure guarantee for national reunification in his new year address serves as an inspiring banner more powerfully encouraging the entire fellow countrymen to the movement for the reunification of the country.

The government of the Republic, upholding the grand programme of national reunification set forth by the great leader, will make every possible effort to open up an epochal phase for the peace of the country and its peaceful reunification this year by implementing the North-South agreement with sincerity on the basis of the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, Pak Song-chol declared.

Yun Ki-pok Lauds Kim Il-song's New Year Speech

SK0501093492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0827 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 5 (KCNA)—The important tasks set forth by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address are basic measures that give comprehensive answers to all the questions arising in correctly carrying into effect the inter-Korean agreement and promoting the cause of national reunification, said Yun Ki-pok, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, in a statement to the press supporting the policy of the country's reunification elucidated in the New Year address.

What is urgent in maintaining and implementing the independent stand at present is to get the U.S. forces out of South Korea and check the U.S. interference in the Korean reunification question, he said, and continued:

Since an agreement was adopted between the North and the South, the South Korean authorities must shake themselves from anachronistic dependence on outside forces and take the stand of solving the reunification question independently with the internal strength of the nation.

As the great leader clarified in the New Year address, the important thing to be settled primarily in achieving national reunification lies in creating the premise for a peaceful reunification.

The North and the South should not confine themselves to reaching an agreement on nonaggression but put an end to arms race and drastically reduce the armies and all the combat equipment to the level impossible to invade the other side.

Therefore, tension between the North and the South should be eased and the Korean peninsula be turned into a nuclear-free, peace zone to provide a definite precondition for a peaceful reunification.

As the question of Korean reunification is historically related with the international relationship, the assistance of the countries concerned is needed in carrying out the North-South agreement.

They must respect the spirit of the agreement and actively help our nation to settle the reunification question independently and peacefully. They should also refrain from putting unjust pressure upon us, arguing about a nuclear inspection. If the Korean peninsula is to be turned into a nuclear-free, peace zone both in name and in reality, negotiations should be arranged between the DPRK and the United States with the rights to manage, use and withdraw nuclear weapons in South Korea.

The responsibility and role of the authorities are very important in achieving a great national unity at an early date. Once they have already agreed to be reconciled with each other, the authorities of both sides should boldly renounce the worn-out policy of confrontation and take a sincere stand of reconciliation and unity.

Foreign Leaders Support Inter-Korean Agreeement

SK0401102692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0958 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 4 (KCNA)—The "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" adopted at the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks enjoys welcome worldwide.

Expressing the belief that this agreement would contribute to peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, Chinese Premier Li Peng said: We are really pleased with it.

Guyanese Prime Minister Hamilton Green said the adoption of the agreement is a result of the tireless efforts the great His Excellency President Kim Il-song has exerted for the reunification of the country.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry in a statement said a strict implementation of the provisions of the agreement would be conducive to peace and detente in Asia.

A spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry told newsmen that the adoption of the agreement is a positive success which will help toward stability in Northeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Vietnam fully supports the Korean people's efforts for a peaceful reunification, he declared.

The Congolese Committee for Supporting the Proposal To Found a Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo in a message to the DPRK Government stressed that the adoption of the agreement is a brilliant victory of the national reunification idea of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader His Excellency Kim

Chong-il that national unity and harmony should be achieved and the country be reunified at an early date by means of confederation.

Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe told a press conference that it is an epoch-making event that the inter-Korean agreement was adopted. I earnestly hope the relations between the North and the South of Korea will make a leaping progress on this occasion, he added.

The director general of the U.N. Secretariat in Geneva expressed the hope that the agreement would be carried into practice at an early date.

Mongolian Party Praises Inter-Korean Agreement

SK0501083592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0759 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 5 (KCNA)—The Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] received a message on December 30 from the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party in connection with the adoption of the inter-Korean agreement.

The message notes that the adoption of the inter-Korean agreement was an important step helpful to a political solution to the problem on the Korean peninsula and to defence of peace and security in Asia and the Pacific.

We wish the C.C., WPK new successes in its efforts to carry out the agreement, it says.

Foreign Groups Score U.S. Over N-Inspection

SK0601052792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 6 Jan 92

["World Voices Against U.S. Claim for Unilateral Nuclear Inspection"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 6 (KCNA)—Political and public circles of various countries sharply denounced the U.S. claim for a unilateral nuclear inspection of the DPRK, supporting the statement of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea dated November 25 last year concerning the question of signing the nuclear safeguards accord.

The Pakistan Socialist Party, the Pakistan Federation of Trade Unions, the Pakistan Peasant Committee, the Pakistan Peace Council, the Pakistan Organisation for Afro-Asian People's Solidarity, the Lahore branch of the Pakistan-Korea Friendship Association and the Pakistan Committee for Support to Reunification of Korea in a joint statement contended that the United States which has deployed nuclear weapons in South Korea has no right to demand the DPRK to sign the nuclear safeguards accord.

The withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea is an indispensable prerequisite to guaranteeing peace on the Korean peninsula, and the demand of the DPRK Government for it is legitimate, the statement noted.

Ten political parties and public organisations of Nicaragua including the Sandinist National Liberation Front, the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, the Journalists Union and the National Union of Students in a joint statement said the United States must give up the attempts to force a unilateral nuclear inspection on the DPRK which has neither capacity nor intention to develop nuclear weapons.

The United States, it demanded, should not merely pay lip-service to the reduction of troops and the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from South Korea, but put it into practice.

The Zimbabwe-Korea Solidarity and Friendship Association in a statement noted that the DPRK Government made clear once again its readiness to sign the nuclear safeguards accord if the United States began the withdrawal of its nuclear weapons from South Korea. If the United States really wants peace on the Korean peninsula and in the world, it should show a positive response to the just stand of the DPRK, it urged.

South Korean Opposition to Bush Visit Cited

SK0501085092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0834 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 5 (KCNA)—Some ten South Korean dissidents and academic figures including Paek Ki-wan, Kye Hun-che, Kim Chin-kyon and Yu In-hong released a statement Saturday [4 January] rejecting U.S. President Bush's projected trip to South Korea and urging the United States to promptly stop putting pressure on South Korea to open the market to rice import, according to a radio report from Seoul.

In the statement "our stand" they charged that since the appearance of the Bush administration, the United States has persistently imposed import liberalization on South Korea.

Pointing out that the Bush administration has screwed up the atmosphere of a war on the Korean peninsula, they urgd it to clarify its reason and promise to refrain from inciting the atmosphere of a war any longer.

In the meantime, the South Korean "General Federation of National Councils of Peasants" also made public a statement that day opposing Bush's trip to South Korea. The U.S. pressure for the liberalization of rice import is an act trampling down the vital rights of the South Korean peasants, they said.

Various Groups Protest Visit

SK0601053492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 6 (KCNA)—More than fifty members of the Seoul District Council of Youth Organisations held a meeting and demonstration Saturday against U.S. President Bush's tour of South Korea, according to a radio report from South Korea.

At the meeting held in a park in Chongro District, Seoul, they sharply denounced the U.S. pressure for opening the agricultural produce market of South Korea and demanded its withdrawal.

They marched to the U.S. Embassy in Seoul in the teeth of police suppression.

In separate action, the National Alliance for Democracy and National Reunification, a dissident umbrella organisation, in a statement exposed that Bush's visit to South Korea is aimed at laying the blame for the crisis of the U.S. agriculture now in stagnation at the door of South Korea through the market opening pressure, and demanded a halt to his visit.

The National Council of Farmers' Organisations and the Headquarters of the People's Movement for the Consumption of Our Agricultural and Livestock Products in their statements denounced the U.S. pressure for the liberalization of rice import and urged the authorities not to bow to it.

Sources Report U.S. Photo Reconnaissance 1-4 Jan

SK0501085892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0806 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 5 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists committed an intensive espionage on the strategical in-depth areas in the northern half of Korea between January 1 and 3, letting a U-2 high-altitude strategical reconnaissance plane make shuttle flights for many hours from the east to the west in the areas along the Military Demarcation Line, according to military sources.

The aerial espionage committed by the U.S. imperialists against the northern half of Korea over the last one year with the mobilisation of the U-2 high-altitude strategical reconnaissance plane numbered more than 400.

The U.S. imperialists introduced an E-3A AWACS plane based in Kadena, Okinawa, into the Korean peninsula in a premeditated way for the command of the flying corps mobilized in the aerial war exercises and for an electronic photographing and aerial espionage on the northern half of Korea.

Cases of aerial espionage by E-3A AWACS totalled more than 70 last year.

Between January 1 and 4, the U.S. imperialists sent RV-1 and other types of army tactical reconnaissance planes in succession to the sky above the Military Demarcation Line for an aerial espionage on the targets on the frontline and the areas along the front in the northern half of Korea.

Last year the U.S. imperialists committed as many as 2,500 cases of aerial espionage against the northern half of Korea with the mobilisation of U-2 high-altitude strategical reconnaissance planes, E-3A AWACS, EH-60 helicopters for an electronic warfare and RV-1 and other types of tactical reconnaissance planes.

Dailies Analyze No Tae-u's New Year Address

SK0401053192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 4 Jan 92

["Papers on No Tae-u's 'New Year Address'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 4 (KCNA)—The "New Year address" delivered by No Tae-u of South Korea gives disappointment, not hope of reunification, to our fellow countrymen in the North and South and overseas who are heading for reunification in the 90's, notes NODONG SINMUN today in a commentary titled "Balderdash Discouraging Fellow Countrymen".

The news analyst says:

In his "New Year address" No said that he would make this year the "first year" of "the building of the Korean national community", though he opined that the adoption of the agreement opened "an era of reconciliation and cooperation".

Judging from No's reiteration of the "building of the Korean national community" on the early morning of the new year, it is obvious that his group has not yet given up its anachronistic ambition for "unification of systems" and "unification by prevailing over communism" by armed forces and "unification by absorption".

It cannot be regarded as a sincere attitude to go ahead to reunification by faithfully implementing the provisions of the agreement that the South Korean chief executive, while paying lip-service to their implementation, cried for the exchange of visits and materials and so on, shunning such important matters as the removal of political and military confrontation that awaits an urgent solution in the North-South relations.

It is very regrettable that the chief executive repeated the worn-out "exchange first" doctrine at a time when the sincerity of the South Korean authorities for the implementation of the provisions of the agreement is more urgently required than ever before.

No also promised that he would make this year a year of "letting democracy take its roots". Here, too, it is difficult to see sincerity.

It is nothing but empty words fooling people and mocking public opinion to talk about democracy while leaving intact the institutional mechanism that violates democracy and keeping behind bars the arrested patriotic students and people.

No's "New Year address" gives rise to doubt of whether he intends to go toward peace and reunification by implementing the agreement with sincerity in accordance with the will and desire of the entire fellow countrymen or whether he means to follow the policy of confrontation and division in conspiracy with the outside forces as he did in the past.

We, together with the people at home and abroad, will follow the future attitude of the South Korean authorities.

MINJU CHOSON comes out with a commentary titled "You Had Better Not Tell Bad Words," which notes: If No Tae-u truly wants reunification and sincere implementation of the North-South agreement, he should have an independent stand, discard the concept of national confrontation and refrain from doing acts obstructing great national unity.

South Said Using 'Anti-Popular Fascist Rule'

SK0501094292 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0838 GMT 5 Jan 92

["NODONG SINMUN on South Korean Authorities' Suppression of people"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 5 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppets decided to arrest inhabitants and core elements in the east coastal area of North Kyongsang Province who staged a demonstration in protest against the nuclear waste disposal facilities built in Uljin County, according to a report.

They issued a "special order for crime prevention" around the New Year and, worse still, the puppet police in a campaign to crackdown upon protesters mercilessly beat a teenage boy to death.

This fully shows that the South Korean authorities are persistently resorting to the shocking anti-popular fascist rule, more viciously challenging the people's desire for independence, democracy and reunification, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says, and continues:

In his recent "New Year address" No Tae-u said he would make this a year of "letting democracy take its roots." The reality of South Korea, however, is quite contrary to what he said.

The "establishment of democracy" cried for by No means, in fact, "strengthening the fascist security-oriented rule". It is nothing but forcing the people to submit themselves to the anti-democratic, repressive order.

The South Korean puppets, on the plea of "establishing democracy", are intensifying the suppression at the point of bayonet from the beginning of the year to stifle the people's movement for independence, democracy and reunification and their struggle for vital rights, bridge over the ruling crisis in the late period of their office and pave the road for staying in power, the analyst says.

Daily on Prospect of Japan's Armed Overseas Force

SK0301062892 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0534 GMT 3 Jan 92

["NODONG SINMUN Raps at Japanese Government's Scheme of Overseas Dispatch of 'SDF' (Self-Defense Forces)"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 3 (KCNA)—It was agreed upon at a special investigation meeting of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan that it is possible for the "Self-Defence Forces" [SDF] to join such "U.S.-led U.N. forces" as in the 1950 Korean war.

And Japan does not trouble herself to conceal that the operational target of those forces is nothing but the Korean peninsula.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says it is not an accidental coincidence that Japan is scheming to dispatch the "SDF" overseas and discussing the specific operational target at the time when the United States is aggravating the tensions on the Korean peninsula and watching for a chance of igniting a war.

The news analyst notes:

This movement of Japan reveals her government's intention to send "SDF" before anyone else in case a war breaks out in Korea, feeling chagrined at its failure to send the Japanese Armed Forces to the Gulf war.

This tells that Japan is entering a stage of openly acting to realise her wild ambition of militarist reinvasion in Asia by force of arms and is going to take the first step into Korea.

In openly seeking the overseas dispatch of the "SDF" these days, the Japanese Government is motivated by the heinous design to turn Japan into a military power and arm her with nuclear weapons.

The Japanese Government is getting more overheated than the United States in demanding unilateral "nuclear inspection" with outcries over the North's fictitious "nuclear development". This is a ruse to find a pretext to justify the nuclear armament of Japan.

It is Japan's invariable wild design to send the "SDF" to a new Korean war and attain her aggressive aim on the Korean peninsula.

Japan's intention to send the "SDF" to the Korean peninsula cannot be construed otherwise than her attempt to repeat her past history of aggression.

This explains why the Japanese Government has not yet officially apologized for the past aggression on Asian countries though nearly half a century has passed since the end of the Second World War.

The Asian people are watching with high vigilance Japan's arrogant act to repeat her past history of aggression.

If Japan truly wants peace, she must give up the scheme to dispatch "SDF" overseas and seek to realise disarmament and make Northeast Asia nuclear-free.

Cuban Envoy, Yi Chong-ok Praise Ties at Banquet

SK0501092692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0816 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 5 (KCNA)—Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega arranged a banquet at the Ongnyu Restaurant Saturday [4 January] on the occasion of the 33rd anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution.

Invited to the banquet were Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-premier of the Administration Council and minister of foreign affairs, Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army, and other officials concerned.

Foreign diplomatic envoys here were also present on invitation.

Cuban Ambassador Juan Jose Leon Vega spoke first.

He said that over the last 33 years the Cuban people under the guidance of Comrade Fidel Castro have successfully built socialism, frustrating the repeated armed invasion and interventionist moves of U.S. imperialism and overcoming all sorts of difficulties.

Noting that there will be in Cuba only one party, the Communist Party of Cuba, he stated: Under the guidance of the party, the Cuban people will smash all the manoeuvres of the U.S.-led imperialists and defend the cause of socialism to the end.

The relations between Korea and Cuba in the past 33 years have been those between the fraternal peoples and those between the comrades-in-arms who are fighting in the same trench against U.S. imperialism, he said, and stressed: These relations are based on the intimacy between the great leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Fidel Castro.

He said: Cuba has fully supported the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea over the last period. She will in the future, too, extend invariable support till Korea has been reunited into one in accordance with the great desire of the entire Korean people and, particularly, of Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il.

He expressed the belief that the fair and aboveboard proposal for national reunification of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song which is most correctly reflecting the desire of the entire Korean people will certainly be realized to bring Korea's reunification in the 1990s.

Vice-President Yi Chong-ok spoke next.

He said that he was authorized to extend warmest felicitations and militant salute, in the name of the Central Committee of the WPK, the government of the DPRK and the Korean people, to the Communist Party, government and fraternal people of Cuba significantly celebrating their national holiday.

He went on to say:

The heroic Cuban people, closely united around respected Comrade Fidel Castro, have firmly safeguarded the gains of revolution, decisively smashing the U.S. imperialists' ceaseless manoeuvres of aggression and blockade at every step for scores of years.

Under the situation in which socialism is undergoing trials and the anti-Cuba moves of the U.S. imperialists are being ever intensified, the Cuban people are dynamically waging a struggle for implementing the resolutions of the 4th Congress of the party, holding aloft the revolutionary slogan "Let us defend the motherland, revolution and socialism!".

Saying that our party and people greatly treasure the particular comradely intimacy and revolutionary fidelity between the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and respected Comrade Fidel Castro, he stated: We will make every possible effort to keep in full bloom and develop the traditional friendship with Cuba in accordance with the landmark provided by the leaders of the two countries and always share life and death in one and the same trench shoulder to shilder with the fraternal Cuban people on the road for the victory of the cause of socialism.

Kim Il-song Meets Political Party Leaders 3 Jan

SK0301152592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 3 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song met leading officials of political parties and public organisations on January 3 on the occasion of the new year.

Present there were Yun Ki-pok, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Yi Kye-paek, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, Chong Sin- hyok, chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party, Yo Yon-ku, Presidium member of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the

Fatherland, Yu Mi- yong, advisor of the Central Guidance Committee of the Korean Chondoist Association, and Kang Yong-sop, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Christians Federation.

The leading officials of the political parties and public organisations offered new year's greetings to President Kim Il-song and wished him good health and long life.

President Kim Il-song expressed thanks for this, had a cordial conversation with them and arranged a luncheon for them.

Kim Il-song Receives New Year Greetings

Leaders Wish Health, Prosperity

SK0301115892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0958 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 3 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received messages of greetings from foreign party and state leaders on the occasion of the new year 1992.

They came from Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Vaclav Havel, president of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic; France Albert Rene, president of the Republic of Seychelles; 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Command Council of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution; Denis Sassou-Nguesso, president and head of the state of the Republic of the Congo; Zayid Bin-sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates; Maktum Bin-rashid Al Maktum, vice-president and premier of the United Arab Emirates; Renan Raffo Munoz, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Peruvian Communist Party; Abdel Hamid Mehri, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Algerian National Liberation Front Party; Rolando Brena Pantoja, president of the National Executive Committee of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru; Eric Trevett, general secretary of the Central Committee of the New Communist Party of Great Britain; Trino Melean, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Venezuela; Daniel Ortega Saavedra, general secretary of the National Leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front; Gustabo Tabladas, general secretary of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party; Jose Francisco Aguilar Bulgarelli, general secretary of the Popular Force organized in Costa Rica; Alberto Moreno, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Peru (Red Motherland).

The messages wished good health and happiness to President Kim Il-song and prosperity to the Korean people.

Exchanges New Year Cards

SK0301064592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0518 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 3 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, exchanged New Year's cards with party and state leaders of different countries on the occasion of the new year 1992.

He exchanged New Year's cards with Deng Xiaoping, former president of the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China (PRC); Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the PRC; and other senior party and state cadres of China; Do Muoi, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam; Vo Chi Cong, president of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Sultan Azlan Shah, king of Malaysia; Ghulam Ishaq Khan, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; R. Venkataraman, president of the Republic of India; Suharto, president of the Republic of Indonesia; Husayn the First, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen; Captain Jerry John Rawlings, head of state and chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council of the Republic of Ghana; Sam Nujoma, president of the Republic of Namibia; H. Kamuzu Banda, president of the Republic of Malawi; Joaquim Alberto Chissano, president of the republic of Mozambique; Major Pierre Buyoya, chairman of the Central Committee of the Burundi Party of Union of National Progress and President of the Republic of Burundi; Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, president of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and founder-chairman of the Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea; Ali Hassan Mwinyi, president of the United Republic of Tanzania; Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola; Yoweri Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda; H. Desmond Hoyte, president of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of the Republic of Nicaragua; Howard Cooke, governor-general of Jamaica; Michael Manley, prime minister of Jamaica; Alberto Fujimori, president of the Republic of Peru; David Jack, governor general of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Ion Iliescu, president of Romania; Lech Walesa, president of the Republic of Poland; Arpad Goncz, president of the Republic of Hungary; and Margrethe the Second, queen of the Kingdom of Denmark.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song also exchanged New Year's cards with Budragchaagiyn Dash-Yondon, chairman of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party; Ya'qub Zayadin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Jordanian Communist Party; Gyula Thurmer, chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party; and Yryo Hakanen, [vice] chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Finland (Unity).

Further on Card Exchanges

SK0501091292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0811 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 5 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, exchanged new year's cards on the occasion of the new year 1992 with Abdur Rahman Biswar, president of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Wee Kim Wee, president of the Republic of Singapore; Major General Joao Bernardo Vieira, president of the State Council of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau; Vigdis Finnbogadottir, president of the Republic of Iceland; Mian Nawaz Sharif, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice-president of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen; Georges Hawi, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party; David Baz, chairman of the National Socialist Party of Syria in Lebanon; Ilie Verdet, president of the Direction of the Socialist Workers' Party of Romania; Branko Kitanovic, general secretary of the New Yugoslav Communist Movement; Blasco Hugo Fernandes, chairman of the National Guidance Committee of the Democratic Intervention of Portugal; Souphanouvong and Phoumi Vongvichit, advisors of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party; and Takako Doi, member of the House of Representatives from the Japan Social-Democratic Party.

Congratulations came to President Kim Il-song from Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat, president of the People's Republic of Mongolia on the occasion of the new year.

'Arafat Sends Kim Il-song New Year Greetings

SK3012113191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 30 (KCNA)—A floral basket and a congratulatory letter to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from Comrade Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, on the occasion of the New Year, 1992 was handed today to Kim Yong-nam, vice-premier of the Administration Council and minister of foreign affairs, by Mustafa al-Safarini, Palestinian ambassador to Korea.

Kim Il-song Cables Cuba's Fidel Castro

SK3112105091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 31 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and pesident of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message of greetings on December 23 to Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, on the occasion of the 33rd anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution.

President Kim Il-song said that the road covered by the Cuban people after the victory of the Cuban revolution is a rigorous yet proud course of struggle which has shown the invincible vitality of socialism, repulsing all the moves of aggression, intervention and blockade from outside and given an inspiring strength to the peoples in Latin America who are advancing toward independence. He noted:

The Korean people note with high appreciation that the fraternal Cuban people are waging a more powerful struggle to firmly defend the gains of the revolution and the cause of socialism and consolidate peace in Central America and the Caribbean in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle under the correct leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by you, not wavering in the least in face of the ever-intensified anti-socialist clamor and anti-Cuba offensive of the imperialists and express firm solidarity with you in your just cause.

I sincerely wish you and your people new success in the future struggle to implement the decisions of the 4th congress of the Communist Party of Cuba which clearly indicated the road to be followed by the Cuban revolution in the present time.

I express the belief that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation between our two parties, two countries and two peoples holding aloft the banner of independence and socialism will grow stronger and develop.

Kim Il-song Greets Palestinian President

SK3112105991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 31 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the start of the revolution of Palestine.

President Kim Il-song in the message said:

Since the start of revolution, the Palestinian people have fought bravely to achieve freedom, liberation and national independence under the leadership of the PLO.

The Palestinian people enjoy widespread support from the world progressive people in their just struggle against the Israeli aggressors and for the restoration of legitimate national rights including the right to return to the homeland, the right of self-determination and the right to set up an independent state in their land.

The Korean people will in the future, as in the past, give active support and encouragement to the struggle of the Palestinian people for national liberation.

Believing that the friendship and solidarity between the two peoples cemented through your recent Korea visit will grow in strength and develop day by day, I sincerely wish you and your people greater success in the struggle for the completion of the revolution of Palestine.

Kim Il-song Sends Greetings to Ghanaian Leader

SK3012062591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0545 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 30 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to Jerry John Rawlings, head of state and chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council of the Republic of Ghana, on the tenth anniversary of the December 31 revolution in Ghana.

The message noted that over the ten years since the revolution, the Ghanaian people under the leadership of Jerry John Rawlings had achieved many successes in the efforts for the political stability and economic development of the country.

The message expressed the belief that Jerry John Rawlings and the Ghanaian people would make a greater progress in their work for the prosperity of the country and the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries would grow stronger and develop.

Kim Il-song Receives Chongnyon Group Officials

SK0101070492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0641 GMT 1 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 1 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song on December 31 received the delegation of officials of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) led by Kim Chong, vice-director of a department of the Chongnyon Central Standing Committee, the home-visiting group of students of Choson University under Chongnyon led by Cho Han-chu and the art troupe of Korean school children in Japan led by Yi Ki-sok, director of a department of the Chongnyon Central Standing Committee, staying in the socialist homeland.

Present on the occasion were Yun Ki-pok and Choe Yong-hae, chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea.

The Chongnyon officials and Korean students in Japan presented flowers to President Kim Il-song and made a bow of New Year greetings to him, wishing him good health and a long life.

President Kim Il-song had a cordial talk with the Chongnyon officials and Korean students in Japan and had pictures taken with them.

Workers Party Greets Indian Communist Party

SK0301062692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0505 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 3 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea sent yesterday a message of greetings to the 14th congress of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

The message said that the Communist Party of India (Marxist) had in the past actively striven to strengthen international solidarity in the struggle for the interests of the working masses and for peace and socialism against imperialism.

We are convinced that the congress will greatly contribute to strengthening your party, making the relations between the party and the working masses closer and strengthening unity with the progressive people of the world, the message added.

It expressed the belief that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation forged between the two parties would grow stronger and develop in accordance with the idea of independence, peace and friendship.

Foreign Leaders Greet Kim Chong-il's Election

SK0301060892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0501 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 3 (KCNA)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori Fujimori, national secretary general of the Popular Action Party of Peru Fernando Calmell Del Solar, secretary general of the National Executive Committee of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance of Peru Luis Alva Castro, Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and the chairman of the Danish Communist Forum warmly congratulated the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il upon his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army according to the unanimous desire of the Workers' Party and people of Korea, when they recently met with Korean ambassadors to their countries.

They said socialism in Korea is being successfully built and defended even under the complicated situation because she has the great leader His Excellency Kim Il-song and the illustrious leader His Excellency Kim Chong-il.

They supported the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation and exchange adopted between the North and the South of Korea, the proposal for founding a nuclear-free, peace zone on the Korean peninsula and the cause of national reunification of the Workers' Party and people of Korea.

More Leaders Send Greetings

SK0401111092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1003 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 4 (KCNA)—Messages of greetings came to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il from foreign party and state leaders upon his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA].

They came from Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, Blaise Compaore, president, head of state and supreme commander of the armed forces of Burkina Faso, 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Command Council of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution, prime minister and commander-in-chief of the Sudanese People's Armed Forces, Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and president of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, B. Dash-Yondon, chairman of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, and Naboho Kanidoua, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Organization for People's Democracy-Labour Movement of Burkina Faso.

They congratulated Comrade Kim Chong-il on his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army and wished him success in his work, good health and long life and happiness.

Further Greetings on Election

SK0601110392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 6 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings from foreign party and state leaders upon his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army and on the occasion of the New Year, 1992.

They came from Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic [Western Sahara] and secretary general of the Polisario Front; Daniel Ortega Saavedra, secretary general of the Sandinist national liberation front of Nicaragua; Rolando Brena Pantoja, president of the National Executive Committee of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru; Karemera Edouard, national secretary of the National Republican Movement for the Democracy and Development of Rwanda; Yacob Zayadine, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Jordanian Communist Party; and Preben Moller Hansen, chairman of the Danish Workers' Party, Common Cause. They wished Comrade Kim Chong-il would make greater success in his new duties and the Korean people bring about signal success in their struggle for the country's reunification and socialist construction in 1992.

Kim Chong-il Returns Greetings to Yasir 'Arafat

SK0301004092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 21 Dec 91

["Text" of Kim Chong-il's message to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in reply to the latter's congratulatory message on the former's election as the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army—read by announcer]

[Text] Tunis

Comrade Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Palestine:

I extend deep gratitude to you for having offered me wholehearted congratulations on my assuming the job of supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

I am convinced that the militant relations of friendship forged between our two countries will invariably be strengthened and developed in the future, as in the past, and I wish you success in your struggle for building a state of your own in the land of your own.

[Signed] Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, and secretary of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee, and supreme commander of the KPA

[Dated] 31 December 1991 Pyongyang

KCNA on Rallies Over Kim Chong-il's Election

SK0501084592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0801 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 5 (KCNA)—Mass rallies and meetings for warmly congratulating the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il upon his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] were held in North Hamgyong Province, Yanggang Province, South Hwanghae Province, at the unit of the KPA to which Comrade Yi Hwan-ki belongs, in Sunchon City, Samjiyon County, the Musan mining complex and other places.

Reports and speeches were made at the functions.

Reporters and speakers said the election of Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the KPA at the 19th Plenary Meeting of the 6th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea is a reflection of the unanimous desire and steadfast will of our party and our people to carry the revolutionary cause of chuche to completion, with the sagacious leader holding the leading position of our revolutionary armed forces, and it is a manifestation of the unquestioned trust in and boundless loyalty of all the party members and other people and People's Army officers and men to the dear leader.

They said it is a great honour, happiness and pride of our party and our people to make revolution, having the great successor to the cause of chuche, the sagacious leader of our party and revolutionary armed forces in the person of Comrade Kim Chong-il, a great genius of thought and theory, a distinguished military strategist.

They recalled that the dear leader, with his rare military wisdom and outstanding commandership, has thoroughly implemented the military line set by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and thus strengthened and developed our revolutionary armed forces into steel-like ranks.

They evinced the determination to staunchly defend and endlessly glorify the immortal feats of our party and safeguard our socialism centred on the masses as an impregnalbe fortress, with the unshakable will and conviction that our revolutionary cause will certainly emerge victorious as long as they are under the guidance of comrade supreme commander.

Kim Chong-il Receives New Year Greetings

SK0301120092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 3 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings from foreign party and state leaders on the occasion of the new year 1992.

They came from Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; France Albert Rene, president of the Republic of Seychelles; Herving Chung, chairman of the Caribbean National Movement; Gustavo Tabladas, general secretary of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party; Eric Trevett, general secretary of the Central Committee of the New Communist Party of Great Britain; Renan Raffo Munoz, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Peruvian Communist Party; Rolando Brena Pantoja, president of the National Executive Committee of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru; Alberto Moreno, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Peru (Red Motherland).

They extended warm congratulations to comrade Kim Chong-il and wished him good health and long life.

Kim Chong-il Congratulated by SKNDF

SK0201113792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 2 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a congratulatory message from the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) on the new year, 1992.

The message notes that by wisely leading the whole party, the whole country and the entire people in the North Comrade Kim Chong- il powerfully demonstrated the invincible might of Korean-style socialism centred on the people, an embodiment of the great chuche idea.

Hanminjon achieved successes in the sacred anti-U.S., anti-fascist national salvation struggle last year by staunchly fighting along the road of chuche together with the people from all walks of life who advanced with fortitude towards independence, democracy and reunification even in the teeth of all hardships and suppression, looking up to you Comrade Kim Chong-il who are building the best socialist paradise in the world, it says, adding:

All the achievements made by Hanminjon and patriotic democratic forces in South Korea last year are entirely attributable to the truth and vitality of the chuche idea which indicates the way of shaping people's destinies and the way of social transformation movement.

Hanminjon, the message says, will push ahead with the awakening and organization of the people and popularization of the struggle as required by chuche and positively bring the fast changing situation to a maturity for the replacement of the military dictatorial regime by a democratic regime, thus adorning this year as a most brilliant year in the history of the anti-U.S. national liberation movement.

It wholeheartedly wishes Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and long life.

'Successes' in Agricultural Production Registered

SK0401151392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1458 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 4 (KCNA)—Palpable successes were registered in agricultural production in Korea last year with the strict application of the chuche method of farming.

Many cooperative farms boosted the per hectare grain yield by an average of 0.5-1 ton, 2.7 tons at maximum, above the previous year.

Paddy rice ruled good on the west coastal areas and maize on the east costal areas last year.

The Samsok District Cooperative Farm in Pyongyang reaped 10 tons of paddy rice and 10.3 tons of maize from each hectare on an average.

The per hectare yield of maize on the Unbong Cooperative Farm in Chasong County, Chagang Province, a northern highland area, was 8.3 tons on an average, 13 tons at the maximum.

Agriculture of Korea was backward in the pre-liberation days.

700-800 kg of maize and 1-2 tons of paddy rice were gathered from each hectare at best even in the flat areas.

After the liberation of the country agricultural production rose rapidly, the average per hectare yield of paddy rice and maize reaching respectively 7.6 and 6.5 tons already in the '80s.

Korea's agriculture is being constantly industrialized and modernized.

The number of tractors per 100 hectares under cultivation has already reached 7 in the plain areas and 6 in the intermediary and mountainous areas.

The mechanization level of the rural economy at present is very high. 100 percent of tilling, threshing and transport and nearly all the rice-transplanting and harvesting are done by machines.

As a result of the consolidation of the material and technical foundations of the bases which produce tractors, trucks and tractor parts in recent years the comprehensive mechanization of agricultural production has been more dynamically pushed forward.

Already long ago the tasks of irrigation set in the rural theses were successfully fulfilled in Korea.

The reservoirs now in use for agricultural production number more than 1,700 and the pumping stations over 25,800, and the total length of irrigation channels is far more than 40,000 km.

Importance of Revolutionaries' Basic Trait Noted

SK0101132292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0017 GMT 29 Dec 91

[NODONG SINMUN 29 December special article: "A Fundamental Demand for Acquiring Chuche-type Revolutionaries' Basic Trait"]

[Text] Communist revolutionaries should constantly try to intensify, cultivate, and acquire the basic trait of loyalty to the party and the leader. The value and dignity of the people who are fighting the revolution can be collectively expressed in this basic trait.

Communist revolutionaries should regard loyalty to the party and the leader as their basic trait, thus making steady efforts to intensify and cultivate it. In addition, however difficult the revolution may be, they should continue to glorify their valuable political life by endlessly and resolutely fighting for the victory of the revolutionary cause pioneered by the leader.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: To turn party members and the working people into chuche-type communist revolutionaries, we should strengthen the indoctrination work of leading them to be loyal to the party and the leader.

Through the working class' revolutionary struggle, the loyalty to the party and the leader has become a basic issue in determining their fate.

Chuche-type communist revolutionaries are those who have acquired the noblest trait in their history: to regard the chuche idea as their firm outlook on the world and loyalty to the party and the leader as their most important work in life.

Loyalty to the party and the leader is a noble revolutionary spirit in upholding the leader's ideology and leadership and in sincerely respecting the leader. This is a high political consciousness based on the revolutionary view of the world; a noble revolutionary sense of duty of revolutionary fighters who have been given a political life by the leader; and the elevated ideology and feeling of revolutionaries who sacrifice their lives for the leader, thus entirely entrusting their fate to the party and the leader.

Revolutionaries' ideological and spiritual traits can be cultivated by giving eternal loyalty to the party and the leader. In addition, it is a fundamental demand for revolutionaries to firmly establish the revolutionary view of the leader in regarding loyalty to the party and the leader as their basic trait and in constantly acquiring it.

Loyalty to the leader is a profound awareness, conscious ideology and feeling, and the noblest and most resolute revolutionary spirit. This means that those ideologies and feelings would be based on the revolutionary view of the leader.

For the working class, the revolutionary view of the leader gives the people their most correct view of the leader's position and role in their revolutionary struggle. This also gives them a sincere attitude and position of upholding the leader.

With their loyalty and duty, the people are endlessly trusting in the leader and holding him in high esteem. They know that the leader has already acquired the noblest trait and position and that he can brilliantly pioneer their fate.

The unconditional and absolute loyalty to the leader can come precisely from the perception of the leader's greatness. The working class's leader collectively reflects the popular masses' independent demands and interests. In addition, the working class's leader should formulate revolutionary ideologies, which elucidate the future road of struggle for the realization of their demands and interests and should arm the people with such ideologies.

The working class's leader should found political organizations, including the party, to make the working class and the popular masses form ranks of revolution, thus leading the revolution to the single victorious road and presenting correct strategies, tactics, lines, and policies.

The mind is a main factor in individual's life. With the sharpest mind of the sociopolitcal organism, the leader can unify and administer his activity.

Revolution cannot be pioneered and advanced without the great leader's wise leadership and care. In addition, the people's fate cannot be protected and glorified without them. Because of these facts, revolutionaries should retain the loyalty to the leader with their revolutionary faith and obligation.

Only when revolutionaries firmly establish a revolutionary view of the leader can they regard their unswerving loyalty to the party and the leader as their essential and living demands for the victory of the revolutionary cause.

Revolutionaries who have established a firm revolutionary view of the leader should sincerely uphold the leader's ideology and leadership. In addition, they should be firmly obligated and have a clean conscience in order to share their fate with the leader.

The revolutionary view of the leader makes revolutionaries cherish a noble ideology and feeling deep in their souls. In addition, it makes them single-heartedly unite around the leader to further strengthen the chuche revolution.

To implement the party's line and policy, it is important to display chuche-type communist revolutionaries' loyalty. In addition, this is an important method to constantly intensify their basic trait and to wage their practical struggle.

Revolutionaries' ideological and spiritual trait can be cultivated and acquired through revolutionary practice. In fact, loyalty can be demonstrated in their work and life.

For revolutionaries, the revolutionary struggle is just the struggle to implement the party's line and policy. Loyal revolutionaries who have established a firm revolutionary view of the leader resolutely support the party's policy and try to implement it.

The people, who have cherished loyalty to the party and the leader with their faith and obligation, regard the fulfillment of the party's policy as their conscientious work and happiness. However, they do not regard it as their obligation.

In addition, through their practical struggle to implement the party's policy, the people can directly experience its justice and vitality. Only under the party's leadership can they more deeply cherish a conviction that the revolutionary struggle and the construction work can be led to victory.

Along with continuous study and organizational life, their practical struggle is an effective way to enable the people to be endlessly loyal and dutiful toward the leader.

The unconditional and absolute spirit for the party's line and policy is loyal revolutionaries' important trait. The struggle to implement the party's line and policy can be waged under various conditions and circumstances. Circumstances and conditions cannot determine the success of the party's policy, but the revolutionary spirit and trait of the people who are in charge of the party's policy can do it. An objective condition in revolution and construction is changeable. In addition, the difficulties and trials are the same in the course of advance.

Unfavorable conditions can be easily overcome and all difficulties can be eliminated when the people's revolutionary spirit has been enhanced.

The people, who firmly believe that their party's line and policy are most just and who cherish the firm unconditional and absolute spirit, will never discriminate between favorable and unfavorable conditions. In addition, by displaying their endless loyalty, they can carry out the party's line and policy in time without perturbation under any difficult circumstances.

Our party's line and policy have embodied the chuche idea. These are the firm guiding principle, enabling the people to solve all problems with all their might and wisdom and with their country's raw materials and resources. Accordingly, all people are required to display their revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

Chuche-type communist revolutionaries are resolute fighters who, fully aware that they are masters in a struggle to implement the party's policy, carry out their assigned revolutionary task with the attitude of being the master under any circumstance.

Only when revolutionaries properly perform their assigned revolutionary tasks themselves can they feel pride and dignity. In the course of carrying it out, they can be prepared ideologically. In addition, they can cherish the loyalty and duty.

Therefore, only under the practical struggle to implement party's policy can revolutionaries constantly intensify and cultivate chuche-type communist revolutionaries' basic trait.

Following the example of loyalists, who devoted themselves to fight for the party and the leader, is an important method for firmly cherishing, strengthening, and cultivating communist revolutionaries' basic trait.

Revolution can be continued generation after generation. Therefore, new generations who have not undergone harsh trials can be strong main forces of the revolution.

However, the antirevolutionary plots of the imperialists, who want to destroy the people's independent cause, are more cruelly encompassed. Under these circumstances, it is very important to inherit the tradition of loyalty which was created by the late revolutionary fighters. This will make the people cherish the trait of communist revolutionaries, who have established a clear revolutionary view of the leader, and to have them carry on the revolution forever.

In the course of carrying out our revolution, a great number of models were evolved by chuche-type communist revolutionaries who had gloriously struggled and had rewarding lives. In addition, they regarded loyalty to the party and the leader as the most important task in their life.

In addition, they displayed their clear view of the leader and life through their practical struggles and during their entire life under the slogan "The affidavit of the revolution is to trust in and uphold only the party and the leader even for a moment."

Communists youth who fought against the imperialists in the days of pioneering the Korean revolution were the first generation of chuche-type communist revolutionaries to establish a clear revolutionary view of the leader. They saved our nation's desperate fate and held the leader in high esteem as the son of the nation, thus cherishing a firm faith that the great Comrade Kim Il-song is the only leader to lead the Korean revolution to victory.

Under such difficult circumstances, communist youth risked their lives to politically and ideologically protect the great general. They also fought against the imperialists with full consciousness and determination that they have no right to die before the revolutionary mission assigned by the general has been fulfilled. In addition, their tradition of loyalty has been glorified generation after generation.

Hidden heroes who were produced in the historic days of converting the whole society into a chuche-idea are true chuche-type communist revolutionaries who have retained loyalty to the party and the leader and assumed attitudes as masters of the revolution.

The hidden heroes are endlessly loyal to the party's cause, thus capturing the Paektu revolutionary spirit. In addition, their feats and models have become a powerful and great encouragment in leading the people to consummate the chuche cause.

All functionaries and the working people, positively following true loyalists' examples, should firmly establish the revolutionary view of the leader to cherish loyalty to the party and the leader with their faith and obligation.

In particular, when they follow the example of Chong Sun-sil, director of the commercial management office in Chongchon County, they can be true communist revolutionaries who serve the people with devotion, thus fully cherishing loyalty and duty to the party and the leader.

The people's ideology has been constantly changing and developing. Revolutionaries should never pride themselves on their political and ideological [word indistinct]. However, they should be continually prepared and ideologically knowledgable at all times.

To become the party's eternal companion, not the temporary companion of the revolution, everyone should continually make tireless efforts to intensify and acquire communist revolutionaries' basic trait. By doing so, they can glorify the revolution and be endlessly loyal to the party's cause.

KCNA Reviews 4 Jan Pyongyang Press

SK0401055592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang January 4 (KCNA)—Papers here today report that the great leader President Kim Il-song met leading officials of political parties and public organizations and arranged a luncheon for them.

Edited in papers are messages of greetings to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from foreign party and state leaders on the New Year 1992.

The press conveys what party members and working people said after receiving President Kim Il-song's New Year address with great emotion and joy and reports about innovations in production.

His answers to questions raised by the director of the Iwanami Shoten, publishers of Japan was carried by a Polish bulletin, says NODONG SINMUN.

Dailies come out with a statement issued to the press by Pak Song-chol, Politburo member of the WPK Central Committee [C.C.] and vice-president, in support of the policy of national reunification indicated by President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

NODONG SINMUN in an article says that the policy and tasks of national reunification outlined by President Kim Il-song in his New Year address are run through with ardent patriotism and spirit of national independence.

Given in dailies is an account of a meeting held by the members of the delegation of Chongnyon officials to express their resolution after receiving the New Year address of President Kim Il-song.

Papers carry messages of greetings to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il from foreign party and state leaders upon his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army and news that foreign media reported about it.

NODONG SINMUN conveys words of foreign figures and media highly praising comrade Kim Chong-il as the great lodestar of the era of independence.

According to the press, thanks of the WPK Central Committee was conveyed to the C.C., the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea for having inspired working people to increase production by making effective political propaganda and economic agitation at major units of the national economy and intensified the socialist emulation drive.

A national art festival of working people going on in Pyongyang is reported in NODONG SINMUN.

The press reports that the Pakistan president and the general secretary of the National Executive Committee of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance of Peru met the DPRK ambassadors to their countries.

Seen in NODONG SINMUN is a report that an agreement on assistance in the modernization of management was signed between the DPRK and the UNDP.

Commenting on No Tae-u's "New Year address", papers strip bare his anti-reunification, separatist colour.

An article of NODONG SINMUN demands that long-term prisoners who have refused to be converted in South Korea be reinstated.

Given in the paper are gists of articles published by foreign newspapers on the adoption of the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange between the North and the South of Korea and news that Palestine and Vietnam called for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

It deals with the campaign demanding an early normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations which is gaining scope all over Japan.

International news of the press includes reports that the Chinese PEOPLE'S DAILY carried an editorial on the New Year, the Cuban paper GRANMA published an article headlined "Let Us Continue Our Struggle Demanded by This Special Period" on the New Year, the first meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council was held, the Pakistan prime minister rejected any shackling "aid", heads of the Commonwealth of the Independent States met in Minsk and Vietnamese working people registered achievements.

NODONG SINMUN in an article exposes the belligerent color of the U.S. imperialists who are getting more frantic in their preparations for a nuclear war with wild ambition to dominate the world.

KCNA Reviews NODONG SINMUN for 6 Jan

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

SK0601055792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0514 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 6 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries messages of greetings to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from foreign party leaders on the new year.

Foreign media gave wide publicity to the New Year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song, and vigorous endeavours are being made in different domains of the national economy to carry out the tasks set forth in his New Year address, says the paper.

Carried in the paper is a statement issued by Yi Kye-paek, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, in support of the policy of national reunification advanced by President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

The paper conveys repercussions upon foreign scholars of the New Year address of President Kim Il-song.

Appearing in the daily is a report that a letter came to President Kim Il-song from the participants in the inaugural meeting of the Nicaragua-Korea friendship and solidarity association.

According to the paper, foreign media gave wide publicity to news about the election of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army. Edited in the paper are messages of greetings to him from foreign party leaders.

Echoed in the paper are world public voices praising the greatness of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The paper editorially calls for accelerating socialist construction by pressing on with the three revolutions.

It informs the readers that a bulletin carrying an article headlined "Korean-Style Socialism, Key to Its Victory" was brought out in India and the chairman of the United Left of Peru met the DPRK ambassador to Peru.

The paper in an article says that to create the premise for a peaceful reunification is an urgent problem which should be settled primarily in achieving national reunification.

A commentary of the paper warns that the No Tae-u ruling group must not deceive and mock the people with an empty talk about "fair elections".

Bush's South Korean trip and the U.S. pressure for rice import liberalisation are under fire among broad circles of South Korea, reports the paper.

Foreign media reported about the December 22 statement of the DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman on the nuclear inspection problem, according to the paper.

International news columns of the paper include reports that Vo Chi Cong, president of the State Council of Vietnam, called for giving full play to the patriotic traditions and spirit of self-reliance, the Vietnamese paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN stressed that Marxism-Leninism will remain an idea for all the activities of true communists, heads of state and government of different countries outlined tasks in the new year, Indonesia called for turning Southeast Asia into a peace zone and Argentina accused the British occupation of Malvinas Islands.

The paper introduces India, Nepal and Thailand which are directing efforts to economic construction for the building of a new Asia.

An article of the paper says last year was the year which witnessed the opening of a prospect for solving the disputes in different regions of the world through dialogue and negotiations and in a peaceful way.

South Korea

U.S. President Bush Arrives in Seoul 5 Jan

Greeted by Ministers

SK0501070292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0647 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 5 (OANA-YONHAP)—U.S. President George Bush arrived in Seoul Sunday afternoon on a state visit for summit talks on bilateral economic and regional security issues.

Bush visits Seoul on the third leg of his 12-day swing of Australia, Singapore, South Korea and Japan. It is Bush's second visit to Seoul as President.

Upon arrival, Bush and his wife Barbara were greeted by Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok, trade and Industry Minister Han Pong-su and other high-ranking Korean officials.

After shaking hands with each of them, Bush, clad in thick blue coat, got into a black limousine and drove directly to the National Cemetery.

He is scheduled to visit Chongwadae (presidential office) for an unofficial dinner hosted by President No Tae-u.

Bush's entourage included Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, Presidential Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, Undersecretary of State Robert Zoellick, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific Richard Solomon and business leaders.

No and Bush will meet again Monday morning for private talks and then an expanded meeting with their cabinet ministers before a joint press conference around noon.

Bush will address American and South Korean businessmen in a luncheon where he will take up Seoul-Washington economic issues.

The U.S. President will address the National Assembly in the afternoon and talk with ruling and opposition leaders. He will meet No again during an official dinner Monday evening and is scheduled to depart early Tuesday morning for Japan.

Students Protest Visit

SK0501105092 Seoul YONHAP in English 1037 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 5 (OANA-YONHAP)—Eight collegians were taken by police while trying to enter into the U.S. Embassy with a protest letter against President George Bush's visit.

Pak Chol-kuk, a senior at Seoul's Hanyang University, and seven other members of Chondaehyop [National Council of University Student Representatives], a pan-national coalition of collegians, attempted to enter the embassy building around 5:40 P.M. but were whisked away by police.

Bush's visit, timed just before four political elections scheduled here this year is a U.S. plot to keep South Korea under its colonial grip, the protest letter said.

"The million members of Chondaehyop denounce Bush's visit and the present government," it said.

The U.S. President arrived earlier in the day as part of his Asian tour. His official schedule begins Monday [6 January] with a welcoming ceremony and summit with South Korean President No Tae- u.

Sporadic protests erupted in southern parts of the country including Pusan and Chonju where farmers and students marched out to the streets denouncing U.S. pressure to open South Korean agriculture market.

Some 100 protesters turned out for the demonstration shouting "no import of American rice."

Students at Pusan University turned out for a mass rally charging Bush of coming to force open South Korean market. They later spread out to downtown streets with leaflets criticizing Bush's visit.

Pusan Group Opposes Visit

SK0401060392 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0500 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Report from KBS Pusan headquarters]

[Text] On the morning of 4 January, the Democratic National Reunification League of Pusan announced a letter of protest opposing U.S. President Bush's visit to the ROK at the Central Church in Posu-tong, Chung-ku, Pusan, and delivered this letter to the U.S. Consulate in Pusan.

In the letter it revealed that forcing the ROK to accept the negotiations reached at the Uruguay Round and opening up our import market are threatening the Korean people's right to live.

No Tae-u Greets President, Mrs. Bush

SK0601033792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0259 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 6 (YONHAP)—U.S. President George Bush and his wife, Barbara, arrived at Chongwadae, the Korean presidential office, at 10 A.M. Monday and were greeted with an apology by President No Tae-u.

As they shook hands, No told Bush he was sorry the welcoming ceremony had been moved inside from the front lawn because of a steady drizzle since early morning.

Bush responded by telling No he thought it would still be a wonderful ceremony.

As a military band played "Stars and Stripes Forever," the presidential couples moved to the podium, but when the American national anthem was struck up, Bush merely mouthed the words.

Bush and his wife received flowers from two children and then the left-handed president wrote his name in the visitor's book before going up to Inwangsil [Inwang conference room] with No.

U.S. Security Commitment Reaffirmed

SK0601041092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0302 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 6 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u and U.S. President George Bush agreed Monday to upgrade the Korea-U.S. partnership in diplomatic, security and economic areas for the co-prosperity and development of their countries.

In summit talks that were extended to include their cabinet ministers, No and Bush shared the view that preventing war on the Korean peninsula was vital for peace in Northeast Asia and the world as a whole.

Bush reaffirmed the U.S. security commitment to Korea, and he and No agreed to continuously develop a cooperative security posture in which Korea plays the leading role with U.S. support.

No explained the changes in inter-Korean relations spurred by the Dec. 13 signing by South and North Korea of an agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and exchange and cooperation and their Dec. 31 accord to make the Korean peninsula nuclear free.

He stressed that the support and cooperation of the United States and other friendly nations was a continuing need to solve issues pertaining to North Korea's nuclear capability.

Bush reiterated that improvement of North Korea-U.S. ties could come only after significant progress was made in inter-Korean relations, and said the level of U.S.-North Korea diplomatic contact could be enhanced in step with the progress of inter-Korean ties and the settlement of nuclear issues, according to Korean sources close to the summit.

No told Bush that an inter-Korean summit was necessary for progress in inter-Korean relations and Bush expressed support, the sources said.

Nuclear issues should be resolved by South and North Korea but there was need for the cooperation of the United States and other nations, and of global organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations, No said, and Bush indicated his full agreement.

The two presidents noted with satisfaction that bilateral trade was achieving a balance recently and said the partnership between their nations should be strengthened in the economic sector.

They agreed to step up substantial economic consultations at the vice minister-level and down.

Bush asked for Korean efforts for an early and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations and market opening, and No explained the step-by-step opening policy that his country was pursuing, the sources said.

Bush arrived Sunday for a two-day state visit and is to leave for Japan on Tuesday morning.

No Tae-u, Bush Address Dinner 6 Jan

SK0601120292 Seoul YONHAP in English 1129 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 6 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u vowed Monday that, together with the United States, South Korea will exert every effort to make North Korea renounce development of nuclear weapons and submit to international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

"North Korea's development of nuclear weapons is a grave threat not only to the Korean peninsula but also to the peace of the Asia- Pacific region," No said.

"We must therefore exert our utmost efforts to eliminate this threat," said No at a dinner given at Chongwadae Monday evening in honor of President George Bush.

Bush, accompanied by his wife, Barbara, and a number of American business leaders, arrived in Seoul on Sunday for a three-day state visit on the third leg of his Asian tour. He is scheduled to leave for Tokyo Tuesday morning.

No recalled that he has enunciated a non-nuclear Korea peace initiative and declared that South Korea is completely nuclear free in order to discourage North Korea from developing nuclear weapons.

As a result of these efforts, he said, significant progress was made late last year between the two Koreas in the form of an agreement on a joint declaration for a nuclear-free Korean peninsula.

"The Korean people are hopeful that on the basis of the recently signed South-North Korea accord we will be able to remove the barriers of rivalry and distrust between the two Koreas and attain a peaceful national unity," No said.

Touching on the trade issue, No said South Korea, despite many economic difficulties, will continue to uphold the principles of free trade and market economy.

Stating that free trade and openness are important to South Korea's economic development as much as they are to the U.S. economy, No said, "we sincerely hope that the Uruguay Round negotiations will produce a satisfactory consensus."

No thanked the United States for its support and assistance which he said has enabled South Korea to cope with the many adversities of war, poverty and confrontation and become the 12th largest trading nation in the world.

South Korea has now become a most trustworthy ally and friend of the United States and is a fully committed U.S. partner for a more prosperous world in the 21st century, No said. "The Korean people are truly proud of this," the president said.

In response, U.S. President George Bush, describing the U.S.-South Korean alliance as a political, economic and security partnership, reassured South Korea Monday that the U.S. commitment will continue into the 21st century.

Bush noted that when South Korea "looked outward for diplomatic and commercial opportunity, it looked first to the United States," since the partnership was formed 40 years ago when the two countries joined forces against (North Korean) aggression.

"Through hard work and commitment, the Republic of Korea has moved from a war-ravaged past to a prosperous present—and an enviable future," Bush said.

"This Republic's progress in resolving differences with your brothers in the North is a great step in the journey toward the day when all of Korea is free," Bush said.

Bush said he admired No's steadfastness and commitment to a peaceful resolution. "The many successes of your nordpolitik policy—your enhanced relations with Russia and China, your active dialogue with North Korea—move us close to that day," Bush added.

"If North Korea can truly abandon not only its nuclear weapons program but its belligerence as well, that ribbon of land at the 38th parallel will no longer divide this country," Bush said.

No Tae-u's News Conference Remarks

SK0601045892 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0255 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Opening remarks by ROK President No Tae-u at a joint news conference with U.S. President George Bush held at the Chongwadae presidential office in Seoul—live]

[Excerpt] How are you? I am very pleased to meet you again, in particular, the reporters accompanying President Bush.

I have had very beneficial talks with President Bush for over an hour and a half today. In the talks, we exchanged our views extensively on the recent changes in the world and on the situation in the Asia-Pacific region. President Bush and I seriously discussed how to promote stable peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and how to promote cooperation between the ROK and the United States.

We had a candid discussion on the issues of strengthening the free world trade system and of expanding the economic and trade relations between the ROK and the United States.

First of all, I highly appreciated the outstanding leadership of President Bush in destroying the cold war structure of the world and liberating all mankind from the horror of nuclear war.

I stressed that our two countries roles and the cooperation between them are becoming all the more important for lasting peace in the Asia-Pacific region and for the common prosperity of us all. To this end, all the countries in this region, including the ROK, ought to carry out the role and responsibility suitable to their capacity.

President Bush made it clear that the United States, as a Pacific nation, will continue its constructive role for peace and common prosperity in this region.

I explained the initiatives we have made for the alleviation of tensions and the settlement of peace on the Korean peninsula and the progress of the inter-Korean relations. President Bush reaffirmed the principle that the North and the South must directly solve problems on the Korean peninsula and wholeheartedly supported the recent North-South agreement.

President Bush and I affirmed our common position that North Korea sign and ratify the nuclear safeguards accord without any delay and accept nuclear inspection and that the declaration on denuclearizing the Korean peninsula must be implemented at the earliest possible date.

We also discussed expanding U.S.-North Korean contact in a phased manner through close negotiations between the ROK and the United States, watching the progress in regard to the nuclear issue and North Korea and in relations between North and South Korea. President

Bush repeatedly stressed that there is no change at all in the U.S. defense commitment to the ROK.

I and President Bush agreed that our two countries will develop the relations of partnership hand in hand in all fields—diplomatic, security, economic, scientific, and technological—so that our two countries can become prosperous together in the Pacific during the era of the 21st century. We confirmed again the principle of seeking common prospects through the expansion of free trade and promised that the two contries will closely cooperate with each other for this end.

I stressed the fact that our government has assumed an active attitude in all fields to make the Urguay Round negotiations successful. I called for the United States to provide cooperation and to understand that it is difficult at present for us to totally open the markets for agricultural products because of our unique situation. I also explained that our trade with the United States last year went into the red figures and our recent economic difficulties, stressing that sound development of the ROK economy is conducive for the United States, as well.

I and President Bush agreed that the governments of the two countries will cooperate with and support each other so that ROK businessmen can smoothly conduct their business activities in the United States and vice versa. We agreed to see to it that the ROK-U.S. Economic Consultative Council will discuss ways to promote the relations of economic partnership between the two countries.

We agreed that it is necessary to further promote scientific and technological cooperation between our two countries and this morning signed a new ROK-U.S. scientific and technologicasl agreement and an agreement on protecting patents.

Now I would like to ask President Bush, our guest, to speak. [passage omitted]

No Tae-u Responds to Reporters

SK0601052492 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0305 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Joint news conference held by ROK President No Tae-u and U.S. President Bush held at the Chongwadae presidential office in Seoul—live]

[Excerpts] [CHUNGANG ILBO reporter Kim Hyon-il] North and South Korea have signed a basic agreement and agreed on denuclearization. However, the sincere implementation by North Korea is still in question. Would you tell us what the two presidents discussed on the issue of denuclearizing the Korean peninsula and building peace during the ROK-U.S. summit talks? Also, did the two presidents discuss the North-South summit talks, which symbolize important progress in promoting North-South Korean relations?

[No Tae-u] People worry that North Korea may delay its nuclear inspection. As you well know, I expect that North Korea will fulfill their promise without fail because the North and South agreed on a joint denuclearization declaration with the premise that North Korea will sign the nuclear safeguards accord and subject itself to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency. I think that North Korea knows well that the international community will take strong counter measures if it delays the signing and the inspection. Given North Korea's situation, I think, North Korea is in no position to forfeit their promise. We agreed that, as we have cooperated on this matter, the ROK and the United States will continue their efforts to urge North Korea to receive nuclear inspection and to stop North Korea from building nuclear reprocessing plants and enrichment facilities. In cooperation with the international community, we will make joint efforts until we fulfill our goal.

We have had no concrete discussion on North-South summit talks. However, I think the U.S. President will wholeheartedly support them if they are conducive to solving the nuclear problem, promoting North-South reconciliation and cooperation, and achieving reunification. [passage omitted]

[KYONGHYANG SINMUN reporter Kang Se-chol] My first question is for President No Tae-u. Do you think the United States will pursue the normalization of diplomatic relations with North Korea as early as the end of this year if North Korea signs the nuclear safeguards accord and subjects itself to nuclear inspection? What did President Bush say he will give priority to in contacts between the United States and North Korea? [passage omitted]

[No Tae-u] As you know, I do not oppose the United States' gradually improving relations with North Korea if it ceases to be a dangerous country in the international community and completely gives up its nuclear development program, which has become a dangerous issue worldwide, and if North-South relations gradually improve. Rather, I encourage the United States to do so. President Bush has told me that he wholeheartedly sympathizes with my opinion on this and that the United States will cooperate closely with the ROK and will never bypass the ROK in dealing with North Korea. [passage omitted]

Journalists Upset By Bush's Remarks

SK0601084092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0818 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 6 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u and U.S. President George Bush appeared at their joint press conference Monday wearing bright smiles, but the event did not please the many journalists waiting for hot news.

The chief executives' answers to questions did not surprise anyone, and President Bush avoided commenting on sharp-edged questions thrown by Korean journalists.

When a Korean reporter asked him how much he understood the protests against rice market opening and what he would do concerning the matter, Bush was silent.

Quizzed when the United States would stop pressuring Korea, which already had a trade deficit with the United States, Bush said elusively that what mattered was not the trade balance but fair trade.

Bush chose two American journalists to ask questions, and both focused on U.S.-Japan relations, suggesting the aim of Bush's four-nation trip.

The two women's focus apparently angered at least one of the many Korean journalists in the conference room—the last inquirer pointedly reminded those present, before asking his question, that they were not in a press conference on a U.S.-Japan summit but on a Korea-U.S. summit.

No and Bush seemed to have identical views on North Korea's nuclear arms development and U.S.-North Korea ties. Both presidents said the United States would not overlook South Korea by directly contacting North Korea.

Bush said U.S.-North Korea relations could make progress when inter-Korean ties were better, North Korea expressed an intention to realize peace and when human rights conditions improved in the North.

Shortly after extended talks with members of their cabinets, the two presidents attended a ceremony in which Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and U.S. Ambassador to Korea Donald Gregg signed two agreements: on science-technology cooperation and on patent secrecy.

An American reporter shouted "Congratulations on your 47th wedding anniversary" to Bush, and Bush thanked No for the card and 47 roses he and First Lady Kim Ok-suk had sent him and his wife, Barbara, early Monday morning.

After witnessing the signing, the two presidents moved to another room and talked for over 10 minutes with Korean and U.S. businessmen.

No said he welcomed Bush's bringing business leaders on his trip to Korea and, noting that he used to take along businessmen for summit diplomacy, joked that Bush was using his knowhow without permission.

The summit between No and Bush was expanded to include cabinet ministers of both sides at around 11:25 A.M.

No opened the expanded summit with another joke: "I welcome President and Mrs. Bush to Korea for a honeymoon on their 47th wedding anniversary."

Bush said he had been impressed by the 47 red roses President and Mrs. No had sent to where he and his wife were staying. He triggered a burst of laughter by asking if anyone wanted to hear the story of a man who had lived with the same woman for 47 years.

He said his life with Barbara had been very happy and affirmed that his story would provide plenty of lessons to the listeners.

The expanded summit had a short ending in 10 minutes.

U.S. President George Bush arrived at the Korean National Assembly building on Yoido with his wife at 2:06 P.M. Monday to deliver a speech.

The Bushes exchanged greetings with Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu and his wife, who were waiting for them in the lobby, and then the President repaired to the speaker's guest room where ruling and opposition party leaders were awaiting him and Barbara Bush was guided to another guest room by Pak's wife, Cho Tong-won.

The ladies met with Rep. Yi Yun-cha of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, Hyon Hong-chu, Korean ambassador to the United States, and the wife of the U.S. ambassador to Korea while their husbands met with ruling and opposition party leaders.

Mrs. Bush said that she was happy to be in Korea.

"We congratulate you on celebrating your 47th wedding anniversary here," Cho and Yi said as one.

Rep. Pak Yong-suk of the main opposition Democratic Party was unable to attend as representative of women lawmakers due to sudden personal business, an aide said.

Security Adviser Details Talks

SK0601082492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0738 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 6 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u and U.S. President George Bush had 70 minutes of wide-ranging discussion on bilateral security, diplomacy and trade issues in their summit talks, presidential national security adviser Kim Chong-hwi told a press briefing Monday.

No and Bush, meeting for their sixth summit, shared the view that it was extremely important for North Korea to sign a nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to allow outside inspection of its nuclear facilities, Kim told reporters.

No explained the inter-Korean agreement on reconciliation and nonaggression and the joint declaration on denuclearization of the peninsula, and told Bush that the South Korean Government had formed a basic framework to achieve reunification, Kim said.

No predicted that if these efforts continued, reunification of the Korean peninsula would be possible this century.

Bush held high the agreement and declaration as the products of inter-Korean dialogue and said he would fully support a summit between No and North Korean President Kim Il-song.

Reaffirming the U.S. commitment to South Korean security and saying that his country would remain an Asia-Pacific country, Bush told No the cooperation the two traditional allies had shown to cope with North Korea's development of nuclear weapons had set a good model for bilateral relations.

Kim said the two leaders did not touch on the readjustment of cutbacks of U.S. troops stationed in South Korea. The two nations agreed in the 23rd Security Consultative Meeting in Seoul in November that they would delay the second-phase pullout of U.S. troops from South Korea until the nuclear threat from North Korea was completely removed.

No and Bush exchanged opinions on the annual joint "Team Spirit" military exercise and a formal announcement on the issue would be made in "the very near future," Kim said.

They agreed to expand cooperation into the economic arena from security and diplomacy, and seek ways for the Korea-U.S. Economic Council to help South Korean businessmen pursue business in the United States without problems, and vice versa.

Bush asked No to consider opening Korea's financial market, and No said he would.

Rice was not mentioned during the summit. Korea's dissidents and farmers strongly opposed Bush's visit because they believed it was to press the Korean Government to open the market to foreign rice.

The two were of the opinion that Washington-Pyongyang contacts should take into account inter-Korean dialogue and North Korea's nuclear development program and be subject to close consultation between Seoul and Washington.

If the United States held talks with North Korea, it would be for Washington to explain its position on Pyongyang's nuclear development program rather than to seek the normalization of relations between the two nations.

In this case, such a contact would be designed to deliver a clear message from the U.S. Government to North Korea's leaders, Kim said.

No and Bush reached a consensus that the nuclear issue should be settled directly between South and North Korea and that in the process the U.S. would not negotiate with the North, Kim said.

Trade Minister Addresses Dinner

SK0501105992 Seoul YONHAP in English 1043 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 5 (YONHAP)—South Korea's basic policy to liberalize its trade would not change despite a host of economic problems such as runaway trade deficits and inflation, Trade and Industry Minister Han Pong-su said Sunday.

With the collapse of the cold-war era, Seoul-Washington economic cooperation took on a heavier role and there arose a need to further cement it, Han said.

Han was speaking at a dinner meeting for 20 U.S. Government officials and businessmen accompanying their President George Bush who arrived here Sunday afternoon on a state visit. Among participants were U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher and 21 Korean industrialists.

Concerns are growing here on the eve of South Korea-U.S. summit Monday that American officials will demand wider and speedier market opening during their visit.

Solving Trade Deficit Stressed

SK0601033292 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 Jan 92 p 2

[Abridged text of speech by Trade and Industry Minister Han Pong-su at dinner for U. S. Delegation]

[Text] In both Korea and the United States, 1992 is a presidential as well as a congressional election year. Also, in both countries, economic issues are certain to figure prominently in the upcoming election campaigns. Among the most difficult of those issues, for both nations, is the problem of chronic trade deficits.

In the overheated atmosphere of an election year, it is all too easy for irresponsible individuals to politicize the trade deficit issue, in Korea no less than in the United States. The Korean advocates of protectionism are perhaps less well known overseas than their American counterparts, but just as vociferous at home.

They demand that we return to the closed markets of the past, even at the risk of offending our trading partners and violating our international commitments. Indeed, to people of this persuasion, GATT and the Uruguay Round are terms of opprobrium.

However, let me assure you, Mr. Secretary, that this government has no intention of heeding such shortsighted advice. Gradually, a consensus has been building in Korea in favor of open markets and free trade. To be sure, this is still a fragile consensus, because in some respects it runs counter to Korean tradition.

Moreover, powerful interest groups remain staunchly opposed to import liberalization. Nevertheless, the trend is clearly in the opposite direction, and will I believe, become irreversible.

For the past decade or so, the Korean government has sought to open the nation's markets ever wider to foreign goods and services. During the same period, Korea, for the first time in its history, has emerged as a significant player in multilateral trade negotiations such as the Uruguay Round.

We have had to pay a price for these achievements—in both economic and political terms—but I believe its is a price well worth paying. Indeed, perhaps we should rather think of it as an investment in our country's future.

During my tenure as minister, I will maintain the continuity of Korea's commitment to market-opening and internationalization, while working to extend and deepen this basic policy approach.

Businessmen Discuss Market Opening

SK0601025192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0214 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 6 (YONHAP)—South Korean industrialists and U.S. executives accompanying President George Bush on his tour of Asia agreed Monday on the need to upgrade economic cooperation between their countries but were split over market opening and a few other issues.

The U.S. business leaders called on their Korean counterparts to support Washington in the Uruguay Round trade talks, open Korea's agricultural and financial service markets and abolish direct and indirect policies aimed at restricting imports.

The Korean businessmen said market opening was difficult where rice and some other items were concerned as it was a sensitive political issue. They also noted that Korea has a deficit in its trade with the United States.

The meeting at Chongwadae, the presidential office, was attended by Ku Pyong-hoe, chairman of the Korea-U.S. Economic Council, and 18 other Korean businessmen. On the U.S. side were Dexter Baker, chairman of Air Products and Chemicals Inc., and a dozen others.

It was also attended by Korean cabinet ministers Han Pong-su, trade and industry, and Kim Chin-hyon, science and technology, and by U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher.

Han, in a dinner he hosted for Mosbacher and U.S. businessmen Sunday, said his government would continue its policy to open up the market despite the many difficulties it was experiencing, including the worsening international balance of payment.

Mosbacher, saying it was the first time that a U.S. President had taken a group of businessmen on an overseas trip, said Bush's visit would help consolidate economic cooperation between the two countries.

Businessmen from the two sides were to meet again at a luncheon Bush was to give at a Seoul hotel Monday.

Science, Technology Agreement Signed

SK0601044792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0408 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 6 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States signed a science and technology agreement and a patents secrecy agreement Monday, capping years of negotiations snagged by intellectual property rights and defense technology transfer.

The agreements were signed during U.S. President George Bush's visit here by Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and U.S. Ambassador Donald Gregg.

The science and technology agreement (STA) resolves three major points on the scope of copyright protection, linking its implementation directly with the patents secrecy agreement (PSA) and royalty payment on inventions.

Korea conceded on setting the scope of copyrights, agreeing to "take the appropriate steps to secure copyright to works created in the course of cooperative activities...in accordance with the national laws and regulations of the respective countries."

Korea originally asked that copyrights be secured according to international agreements both countries are members of.

The United States, in turn, agreed to scrap an article that specifically delayed implementation of the STA until the two countries agreed on the PSA.

Korea conceded that exclusive rights to inventions held by one party would be recognized by third countries as well.

"If an invention is a type for which exclusive rights are available under the laws of one party but not of the other party, the party whose laws provide for exclusive rights shall be entitled to all rights to such inventions in its own territory and in third countries," the STA says.

This article also recognizes that inventors are entitled to royalties earned by either party from licensing of the property but adds that both parties to the agreement may agree to a different allocation of rights to such inventions.

The PSA calls for transfer of inventions and information for research, development and manufacturing purposes, free of cost if the patents are owned by the government. In case of privately owned patents, using parties are obligated to pay royalties.

The United States originally demanded that the transfer be used strictly for information purposes, not R & D [research and development] or manufacturing.

The PSA says that both parties have to acknowledge a patent in order to include it in the PSA.

Farmers Organizations, Students Continue Protests

SK0601090892 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0800 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Farmers' organizations throughout the nation and students from various universities continued to hold rallies and demonstrations on 6 January, opposing the opening of the rice market and denouncing U.S. President Bush's visit to the ROK.

At around 1500, some 150 farmers affiliated with the National Farmers' League gathered in front of Yongdungpo Railway Station and held demonstrations opposing the opening of the rice market and denouncing President Bush's visit.

The farmers stated that the opening of the rice market will destroy the basic livelihood of the seven million farmers and make our country a food subordinate state of the United States. The farmers planned to march to the National Assembly building but voluntarily dispersed after scuffling with police.

Some 50 Songgungwan University students also held a meeting opposing the opening of the rice market and President Bush's visit. They burned the Stars and Stripes and a scarecrow effigy of President Bush. The students stated that they cannot accept the intention of the United States to open up our rice market by force and cannot by any means welcome President Bush who came to our country to convey the U.S. position.

At around 1030 on 6 January, 10 representatives of three organizations including the National Farmers' Organization Council waged a demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy opposing the opening of the rice market.

In a letter to President Bush, they stated that it is unfair for the United States to force our country to open up all agricultural products including rice under the pretext of the Uruguay Round negotiations while ignoring the special situation of our agricultural industry. After reading aloud the letter and statement which is to be delivered to President Bush, they conveyed the letter and statement to a related official of the U.S. Embassy and dispersed after 30 minutes.

Students Demonstrate in Kwangju

SK0601114992 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1100 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Demonstrations by farmers and university students also continued on 6 January in the local areas protesting trade pressure by the United States including the opening of the rice market and U.S. President Bush's visit to the ROK.

From around 1600, some 300 university students of Chonnam University and Choson University affiliated to South Cholla Provincial Student Council held sporadic demonstrations in various places around Kwangju shouting slogans opposing the opening of the rice market and President Bush's visit. From 1900, they held a torch light demonstration in front of the U.S. Kwangju Cultural Center and threw Molotov cocktails at police who were blocking them. They are continuing to hold demonstrations at this time.

From 1430, some 300 university students of Kyongnam University and Changwon University affiliated to the Masan District Student Council distributed leaflets to Masan citizens opposing the opening of the rice market, and held demonstrations.

At 0000 on 6 January, farmers of Sian-myon, Yesan County, South Chungchong Province, went into the office of Sian-myon by breaking the lock and held a demonstration opposing the opening of the rice market. During this process, they injured Kim Che-u, chief clerk of Sian-myon, who was on night duty.

Citizen's Coalition Opposes Rice Market Opening

SK0401020892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0144 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 4 (YONHAP)—The Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice declared its opposition to Korean rice market opening Saturday in a statement issued on the eve of U.S. President George Bush's arrival.

The high-handed attitude of the United States in pressuring Korea to open its rice market wasn't appropriate for a friendly nation that understood the circumstances of Korean farming, says the coalition, a reform-minded group that embraces many dissidents.

It demands the United States abandon import restrictions on 14 agricultural products and scrap super 301, which it claims runs counter to the spirit of the Uruguay Round trade talks, before seeking to open Korea's rice market.

Unification of the Korean peninsula is expected in the near future, so rice farming has to be sustained to solve the food shortages in North Korea, the statement said.

If the United States keeps asking for market opening, it says, the coalition will join forces with consumers and farmers.

Opposition Party Concerned Over Market Friction

SK0401025992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0243 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 4 (OANA-YONHAP)—The main opposition Democratic Party expressed hope Saturday for closer ties between Seoul and Washington and concern for possible friction over market opening pressure during U.S. President George Bush's visit.

"We hope his visit will contribute to improving South Korea-U.S. relations and inter-Korean reconciliation and cooperation," party Spokesman No Mu-hyon said.

"But we cannot but worry about possible diplomatic friction from U.S. pressure for market opening in East Asia to solve its domestic economic problems," he said.

Bush arrives Sunday for a state visit and leaves Tuesday for Japan.

The opposition party hoped Bush would try to understand the Korean situation and people in order not to harm the friendship between the two countries, No said.

Dissident Organizations Condemn U.S. Pressure

SK0501042892 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 5 Jan 92 p 19

[Text] Timed with U.S. President Bush's Seoul visit on 5 January, on 4 January dissident organizations issued a statement denouncing the U.S. pressure to open the Korean rice market and held demonstrations against it. Accordingly, farmers associations, such as the National Peasants League, have developed a plan for holding a mass rally. Therefore, it is expected that authorities will block the rally by using riot police.

The National Peasants League, widely known as "Chonnong," (Chairman Kwong Chong-tae), on 4 January issued a statement saying that the U.S. pressure to open the Korean rice market is aimed at destroying Korean agriculture, with less than 40 percent of the farmers being self-sufficient, and to smash 7 million farmers' right to exist. In its statement Chonnong also said that it will hold a rally on 6 January in front of the National Assembly in Youido, where President Bush is scheduled to deliver a speech, or in front of the U.S. Embassy.

In addition, 21 members out of approximately 50 members of the Seoul Democratic Youth Organization Council (Chairman Yi Pom-yong) held a resolution rally at 1500 on the afternoon of 4 January at the Tapkol Park in Seoul to oppose President Bush's Seoul visit. After the rally, they came down the street to deliver a letter of protest to the U.S. Embassy. However, all of them were arrested by police near the Kyobo building.

In addition, nine dissidents, including Paek Ki-wan and Kye Hun- che, the National Association for Democratic National Reunification (abbreviated name: Chonguk Yonhap), and the headquarters of the People's Movement To Use Our Agricultural Products issued a statement, demanding that the United States withdraw its pressure to open the Korean rice market.

Dailies Comment on Importance of Bush's Visit

Political Significance Noted

SK0401093592 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 4 Jan 92 p 5

[Article by reporter Yi Chae-ho: "Aim of Bush's Visit to ROK—Political Significance"]

[Text] President Bush's visit to the ROK is being realized when North-South relations are showing a rapid change. Thus, his visit attracts the people's attention.

The upcoming summit talks between Presidents No Tae-u and Bush will be the sixth time for them. The two top leaders have met each other more frequently than any others. Therefore, there are no new or pending problems to be settled or discussed during Bush's visit. Since his visit is occurring when North-South relations are showing drastic changes, including the adoption of a "basic agreement" on North-South relations and the conclusion of an agreement on a "joint denuclearization declaration," his visit attracts the people's attention. Furthermore, the settlement of North Korea's nuclear issue, to which the United States has paid keen attention, is near at hand.

Whenever it finds the opportunity, the United States has stressed that it supports the ROK Government's effort to independently resolve the issue of the Korean peninsula and that it will actively cooperate in this endeavor. It appears that during his visit this time, President Bush will stress this point once again. It is also anticipated that President Bush, estimating that progress was made in resolving North Korea's nuclear issue based on close cooperation between the ROK and the United States, will manifest that such a cooperative structure will constitute the basis of relations between the two countries in the future.

Such a manifestation by President Bush will be a great encouragement to our government in its efforts to take the initiative in changing the North-South relations based on close friendly relations with the United States. Relevant government officials stressed that "in the midst of drastic changes in Northeast Asia's situation, including the dissolution of the Soviet Union and Japan's move to become a major military power, maintaining close ROK-U.S. relations is more important than ever before."

The U.S. support and cooperation for improving North-South relations can be construed as a broad recognition of the ROK's autonomous rights in resolving the issue of the Korean peninsula. Thus, it is anticipated that what President Bush will demand in return for such recognition will not be small. The United States strongly demanded that the ROK actively participate in forming the so-called "new world order," which will be carried out with the United States as the center, not to mention the order in Northeast Asia. Such a demand was reflected in increasing the ROK side's share for defense expenditures, as well as in expanding the ROK Army's role in defending of the ROK. The U.S. demand also prompted the ROK Army's participation in peacekeeping activities. It is anticipated that President Bush will again emphasize this point during his visit this time. The "mature ROK-U.S. partner relations" that President Bush will stress in many occasions during his visit, including in his address to the National Assembly, reflect this demand by the U.S. side.

It is also expected that President Bush will express his interest in the important turning point facing the ROK in its domestic politics in the course of democratization, such as four consecutive elections this year. It seems that President Bush will state that he values the progress made in the ROK's democratization despite a few occasions of vicissitudes and that the United States hopes such democratization will continue without any setbacks, thus expressing the United States' characteristic interest.

Economic Significance Noted

SK0401120092 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 4 Jan 92 p 5

[Article by reporter Yi Kyu-min: "Aim of President Bush's Visit to ROK—Economic Significance"]

[Text] In U.S. history, there is no precedent for such a large number of businessmen accompanying their President on an official visit to foreign countries as this time. Thus, President Bush's visit to Asia means that he considers the trade issue the most important issue during his visit.

This was confirmed by the fact that while announcing last 19 December his upcoming visit to four Asian nations, President Bush said that "my visit has been pushed ahead with the missions of creating more employment for American people and recovering prosperity for them."

In other words, President Bush's visit is a "trip for trade," and, during his visit, he will exert influence in various forms in order that free trade and fair trade, which the United States is pursuing, are implemented.

Therefore, trade experts observe that if our nation makes excellent use of this opportunity, we can reduce the U.S. trade pressure; on the other hand, if our nation erroneously deals with this occasion, there is a great possibility that we will have to suffer a severe trade offensive.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry points out that during President Bush's visit, the U.S. side will bring up the topics of supporting the U.S. position in the Uruguay Round negotiations and expanding the scope of using domestic people in the opening of our nation's financial market. The government also observes that the U.S. side will demand that we refrain from waging such campaigns as the movement for new order and new life and the movement for repressing excessive consumption, which the United States considers affecting the two countries' trade.

It is also anticipated that although the U.S. side will present only essential issues concerning these movements during the summit talks, the United States, during working-level talks, will strongly demand the specific relaxation of various restrictions unfavorable for foreign businessmen's advance into our nation's markets, including the circulation market, financial market, communications market, and intellectual property rights market.

For this, our government has formulated measures, including active participation in various multilateral agreements led by the United States; an explanation of the fact that we positively accepted the demands that the United States made on us in the past in the financial sector; and an illustration that the movement for repressing excessive consumption has nothing to do with rejecting imported items.

Pointing to the trade deficit that our nation experienced last year for the first time in 10 years in trade with the United States, the relevant government officials predicted that the U.S. trade pressure to be applied on our country during President Bush's visit will not be too great.

In addition, U.S. economic experts observe that the political and economic success of the U.S. side during President Bush's visit depends on Japan. As the result of this, the burden on our country will be relatively light.

However, in view of President Bush's political activities in the United States, including the elections, he is in the position of not returning empty-handed. Thus, the government and business figures are agonizing over the fact that President Bush's visit to the ROK is aimed at concessions from us in any form.

Prospects of Visit Considered

SK0601075492 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 4 Jan 92 p 5

[Article by Kim Sok-han, U.S.-resident Korean lawyer specializing in international trade and adviser to Korean Foreign Trade Association]

[Text] It seems that the ROK side is inclined to feel considerably threatened by U.S. President Bush's upcoming visit to the ROK on 5 January, as he is supposed to exert further pressure to open markets. Bush's visit to Asia is more economy-oriented than diplomacy-oriented, that is, it is more of a visit on trade. On this visit, in which he intends to purposely stress this aspect, Bush is accompanied by Commerce Secretary

Mosbacher, instead of the secretary of state, who usually accompanies the U.S. President on visits to foreign countries, and some 30 business leaders, including the chairmen of the three major U.S. auto firms. It is quite natural that the ROK feels threatened by this unprecedented trade visit initiated by the U.S. President himself. However, Bush's upcoming visit to the ROK is not all that negative. If the ROK side can cope with it with appropriate preparations and strategy, it can provide the ROK with an opportunity to turn the visit to its advantage. First, it is a golden opportunity for the ROK to explain and discuss with President Bush, the top leader of the U.S. Government, the ROK side's fair positions on the pending ROK-U.S. trade issues and the efforts the that ROK has made to date for the creation of fair trade relations between the ROK and the United States. Until recently, Bush was personally more interested in diplomatic issues than trade issues; therefore, the information he received on the ROK-U.S. trade issues came mainly from the U.S. trade representative and the Commerce Department's trade negotiation delegates. As a result, the concessions on market opening that the ROK side made as a responsible U.S. trade partner in such areas as insurance, beef, wine, communications, intellectual property rights, foreign investment, and finance were often reported in a somewhat distorted and exaggerated manner because of the U.S. negotiation delegates' desire for fame, as if the concessions resulted in the U.S. side's strong pressure at the negotiation table to force the ROK to surrender and accept the U.S. demands. This self-praising view of the U.S. negotiation delegates considerably influenced the public opinion in the United States as well. In the meantime, this overshadowed the ROK side's situation and sincerity, giving a negative impression of the ROK to the U.S. policy makers, including President Bush, that the ROK, like Japan, which makes economic growth through trade with the United States, reluctantly opens up markets bit by bit only when the United States exerts pressure on it.

However, President Bush's visit, which is occurring when his interest is focused on the economic and trade issues while the United States suffers from a sluggish economy, can be made a good opportunity for the ROK to precisely explain its position directly to President Bush, the top leader of the U.S. Administration.

The ROK side ought to review the important ROK-U.S. trade issues and prepare itself to logically expound to President Bush which U.S. requests the ROK has accepted, which benefits U.S. businesses received because of the ROK concessions, and what damage ROK businesses and its national economy has had to suffer on account of it, etc. By so doing, the ROK side can help President Bush appreciate what it has done in view of the scale of its national economy for the establishment of fair trade relations between the ROK and the United States, thereby positively influencing the U.S. trade policy on the ROK in the future.

Second, the Bush administration is now in a difficult position politically because of economic problems with the election at hand. If the ROK can successfully cope with this situation in which President Bush is placed, it can lead to Bush being a friendly supporter of the ROK.

"More exports and more jobs," which is the theme of Bush's visit at present when the U.S. economy is in a serious recession, is directly connected with the issues for the upcoming presidential election, and this has something to do with the fact that Commerce Secretary Mosbacher, who is accompanying Bush, is one of the three top election campaign directors for Bush. President Bush chose to make this trade visit to Asian countries to open a breakthrough in the present political difficulties resulting from economic problems. Therefore, Bush must come up with some tangible results from this trade visit.

Therefore, if the ROK has some product in mind in opening up the market to the United States and if its timing is not very inappropriate at this time—for instance in the area of communications—the ROK can make a bold concession during his visit to make it an opportunity to turn President Bush's impression favorable toward the ROK in the realm of trade. This will consequently help Bush politically in the election, and if Bush is reelected, it will help bring forth a U.S. trade policy advantageous to the ROK.

Third, Bush's visit will be a good opportunity not only for Bush himself but for inducing favorable opinion of the ROK in the United States in general. Bush's visit will attract considerable attention of the U.S. press and broadcasting media; it, therefore, can provide the ROK with an opportunity to help improve the U.S. impression of the ROK concerning its trade policy.

If the ROK image as a fair trade partner is positively implanted among the American people through the U.S. press and broadcasting media, it will add to the purchasing power of ROK goods in the United States as well. The ROK people tend to think that the trade issue is something that should be dealt with by working-level administrative officials. Even when the trade issues were dealt with at a high level, the ROK tended to explain the issues roughly, referring the details to the working-level officials. Therefore, the top level officials of the United States tended to be not well versed in the precise economic situation of the ROK presented from the ROK point of view.

Therefore, the ROK ought to make the most of Bush's visit to the ROK and discuss the specific problems, which was usually dealt with at working-level talks, sufficiently in detail at the summit talks, so that the visitors may properly appreciate the actual ROK economic situation and the ROK efforts to date for opening markets.

Visit Called 'Pressure Junket'

SK0401101292 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 4 Jan 92 p 5

[Article by Kang Hung-ku, researcher at the Institute of External Economic Policies, from the "Comment on Current Events" column entitled: "Bush's 'Pressure Junket'"]

[Text] U.S. President Bush is scheduled to arrive in Korea on 5 January as part of his visits to some of the Asian countries. The purpose of his visit to Korea this time around can be summed up in three categories:

First, he is expected to solicit understanding and cooperation from our government concerning the role the United States plays in Asia in fashioning what is known as "a new world order" following the collapse of the cold war and the war in the Gulf. Second, he is expected to commit the United States to joint efforts with Korea to bring North Korea around to agreeing to nuclear inspections, a pending political issue that must be resolved immediately. The third involves the issue of Korea's market opening.

Demanding that Korea open its market, however, seems to be at the heart of Bush's goals in his visit to Korea this time around. This is evidenced by the fact that the U.S. President, who is coming to Korea as a guest of state, is trailed by a large number of U.S. businessmen. In other words, his visit to Korea can be said to be a "junket aimed at pressuring" Korea to open its markets.

Now, what makes the U.S. President take it upon himself to put pressure on Korea to open its markets? First of all, he intends to bring our government around to cooperating in opening our markets to agricultural products, including rice, and services in order to provide a successful solution to the Uruguay Round negotiations, which are in their final stage. His second goal is to seek an earlier settlement of such pending bilateral trade issues such as money markets, communications, distribution of goods, and import procedures, in addition to narrowing the differences of opinions between Korea and the United States over the ways our government runs the economy as a whole. The third concerns a more basic issue. He pins his eye on producing a breakthrough in reviving the ailing U.S. economy by persuading other countries to open their markets to U.S. goods.

U.S. President Bush is now faced with an economic recession, the worst enemy he has ever encountered since he took office. In other words, the economic recession is "trouble from within" to the Bush administration, which has a reputation for being dexterous in diplomacy. Because of a high unemployment rate, put at 6.8 percent, a high ratio of per capita debt, and the fear that the worst is yet to come, individual spending shows no sign of going up again. Despite the drastic measures taken to ease monetary difficulties, not even an investment in equipment, which has dropped due to financial stringency caused by the structural problems inherent in U.S. monetary policy, shows no sign of recovering.

The annual fiscal deficits estimated at $300 billion render even the financial function of stimulating the economy impotent. In addition, a new financial expenditure runs the political risk of turning the government-Congress agreement on reducing financial deficits into a bunch of meaningless documents. Because of this, during his visits to the Asian countries, U.S. President Bush intends to persuade Japan and Korea to open their markets, thereby opening a way out for the U.S. business concerns, with a view toward boosting the U.S. economy and creating jobs.

Now, how can our government deal with Bush's visit to Korea? The first thing it can do is to offer him our firm, step-by-step market opening policy built on the analysis of the global trend of market opening. Our country has no choice but to open its market in order to become an advanced country. Toward this end, our country needs to make thorough preparations for market opening and take phased measures, including the structural realignment of industries. Once market opening plans are developed and put in force, under no circumstances should the government delay their enactment or back down from them, if for no other reason than to protect our country's standing in the international community.

It is widely known that our country has steadily enforced a market opening policy since the 1980's. As a result, our country has virtually opened the door wide to all sorts of foreign goods, except a few agricultural goods, with the rate of import liberalization of finished products reaching 99.8 percent and the rate of agricultural products 80.3 percent in 1990. Our government also has been making efforts to dissipate feuds with foreign countries by easing restrictions of all descriptions imposed on foreign investors and by opening up some of the services market. Now we are posting trade deficits with the United States.

In spite of all this, our country is receiving trade pressure from the United States, partly because it does not enforce part of the market opening policy for some reasons. In addition, the government should make the U.S. Administration clearly understand the fact that it has been making efforts to revise our system and customs commensurate with the international ones in conformity with the international trend of opening.

Second, it is necessary for our government to propose to the United States the construction of a cooperative structure mutually complementary to Korea and the United States. The idea is to combine U.S. industries, high technology, and capital with our country's industrious labor of high quality and limited capital to give the two countries a competitive edge in international markets. The United States, even with its technology, suffers from price competition, whereas our country, even with its labor of good quality, is now experiencing difficulties in quality competition as it falls behind other countries due to backward technology.

Given the fact that both Korea and the United States suffer from trade deficits with Japan, the United States should regard Korea as a venue in which the two countries can cooperate with each other in fashioning strategy rather than seeing it merely as a market for U.S. goods.

I hope that President Bush's visit to Korea will serve as an opportunity to deepen the mutual understanding about the importance of ROK-U.S. relations and the strategic cooperation for mutual development.

Purposes of Visit Questioned

SK0501062292

[Editorial Report] KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean, an independent newspaper published in Seoul with national circulation, on 5 January on page 3 publishes under the headline "The Briefcase U.S. President Bush Will Be Carrying" an 800-word editorial on U.S. President Bush's visit to the ROK. The opening paragraph of the editorial notes "the briefcase U.S. President Bush will be carrying with him on his visit to the ROK will contain two key issues, namely the security and market issue." It also notes the inevitability of coordination of relations between the two countries now that the international situation is heading for a new order and a change is taking place in the power balance of Northeast Asia. It also expresses hope that the two leaders of the ROK and the United States will have productive discussions on pending issues from a more comprehensive viewpoint.

The editorial notes that a "main objective of President Bush's Asian tour is 'to create jobs through exports' in an attempt to resolve the economic recession which is in the way of his reelection." However, the pending diplomatic and economic issues between the two countries are limited, for "it is a firm ROK foreign policy to place the center of its foreign policy on its relations with the United States and the trade issue is no longer a very controversial issue now that the ROK is recording a trade deficit with the United States."

The editorial notes uncertainty in North-South relations despite the North-South agreement and the adoption of the joint denuclearization declaration, and notes "close discussion and coordination between the ROK and the United States is essential because North-South relations could be turned into a dangerous situation if the situation is miscalculated."

The editorial mentions probable subjects of discussion during ROK-U.S. summit talks, including economic issues such as the opening of the rice market and notes some difficulty in resolving economic issues. It then stresses that the two countries should try "to build a more broad-visioned and mutually complementing cooperative relationship; for example, exploring ways to do joint business using U.S. capital, technology, and our labor."

The editorial concludes by saying that "close cooperative relations are achieved when the two sides appreciate each other's position, for expanded reproduction is hard to come by under the circumstances where either side imposes its assertion on the other side." The editorial expresses hope that "the two leaders will turn out to be 'joint victors' as the U.S. press presents the relationship on the basis of this understanding."

SEOUL SINMUN in Korean, a pro-government newspaper published in Seoul with national circulation, on 5 January on page 2 publishes under the headline "U.S. President Bush's Visit to the ROK Early in the New Year" a 900-word editorial on U.S. President Bush's visit. The editorial notes the significance of the visit to the ROK by the President of the United States "which is now the country leading international politics in wake of the fall of the Soviet Union."

The editorial notes that President Bush will probably strongly urge the ROK to open its market, noting the U.S. economic recession and President Bush's position connected with his reelection. It stresses, however, that U.S. demands and pressure for opening markets "should not be made indiscriminately," and notes that of the annual U.S. trade deficit of $70 billion, $42 billion comes from its trade with Japan and says that "the main target of the U.S. economic offensive should be Japan."

The editorial notes that "the ROK's main interest in connection with Bush's visit is to strengthen cooperation with the United States in relation to the rapidly changing situation of the world and the Korean peninsula." It notes some signs of change in North Korea as witnessed from recent North-South talks and says that "our cooperation with the United States, our important ally, is necessary" in dealing with this change on the Korean peninsula.

HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean, a left-leaning and independent newspaper published in Seoul with national circulation, on 5 January on page 2 publishes under the headline "Jobs Should Be Created in the United States—Bush's Visit to the ROK as Viewed by the ROK People" a 1,000-word editorial on U.S. President Bush's visit. The editorial stresses that "the important issues during President Bush's visit should be the policy coordination between the ROK and the United States on inter-Korean relations and the U.S. pressure to open the ROK market."

The editorial notes "rapid progress in inter-Korean relations over the last one month with the adoption of the North-South agreement and the joint denuclearization declaration," noting the possibility of resolving the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

It views the possibility of President Bush's pressure on the ROK to open its markets since he vowed to "provide jobs for the American people" when he began his four-nation tour, and notes the ROK Government's easygoing stand in coping with this pressure that may come during President Bush's visit to the ROK. The editorial notes rallies held to oppose the opening of the rice market, and urges President No Tae-u "to tell Bush that opening the rice market is absolutely impossible."

The editorial concludes, "We would like to ask President Bush, referring to the U.S. press article (WASHINGTON POST dated 2 January) which says 'the U.S. trade deficit results from within the United States and results from high consumption exceeding productivity': Why do you intend to increase jobs for Americans outside the United States?"

Issues Surrounding Visit Noted

SK0501001792 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 5 Jan 91 p 8

[Editorial: "Bush's Visit to Seoul"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush comes to Seoul today amid a prevailing mood of reconciliation on the Korean peninsula in tune with the political order being transformed in Northeast Asia. His visit, once delayed because of domestic problems, comes at an important juncture, although there is much suspicion in Asia about the purpose of his trip: economic pressure to open their markets wider to U.S. exports.

Bush eased the way for President No Tae-u to declare South Korea free of U.S. nuclear weapons last November, which in turn led to Seoul striking up a nonaggression and cooperation agreement, followed by the crucial denuclearization pact the next month, with North Korea. This well testifies the active roles played by Seoul and Washington in bringing a new order to this part of the world in place of the confrontational Cold war.

But we have yet to go a long way to ensure stable peace on the peninsula pending its unification. North Korea has yet to pen its nuclear facilities to international inspection and show that it has no uranium enrichment and reprocessing plants. President Bush's visit here could be seen as underscoring Washington's stand so as to lead Pyongyang to its words.

Bush's current Asian tour is in fact billed as a sort of mission aimed at opening markets to create more jobs in his country. Indeed, his efforts to increase exports to cope with America's staggering economy, particularly in an election year, are understandable.

But trade, as he stressed on other stops of his trip, is a two-way transaction, requiring both parts to better understand each other's particular economic situation. South Korea's trade with the United States turned to a deficit last year. As of November, the deficit was $716 million on a customs clearance basis. This country also ran a deficit of $8.1 billion with Japan. The turnaround in favor of the United States came while South Korea was opening its market wider, especially for foreign manufactured goods and agricultural produce.

To Koreans, rice means much more than a mere staple food. It has unique anthropological implications. As in the United States, it is election year in Korea. And there is a heightened political awareness about the rice issue. All this deserves understanding on Washington's part.

The developments rapidly unfolding in Northeast Asia require Seoul and Washington to step up their partnership to their mutual advantage. The long-term perspective is necessary for them to map out the pursuit of common interests. Popular awareness of this is necessary, for which mutual understanding is essential. The security partnership traditionally existing between the two countries needs to be upheld, practically and otherwise, as a safety valve to be assured against possible adverse developments.

Visit Objective 'Very Significant'

SK0501043492 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 5 Jan 92 p 3

[Editorial: President Bush's Bill]

[Text] U.S. President Bush will visit the ROK for three days beginning today. The news that he will bring a significantly reduced number of industrialists with him upon his visit to the ROK as compared with the 21 industrialists he started with when he left Washington on 30 December gives us the feeling that he has a fairly correct perception of ROK-U.S. relations.

When President Bush set the objective of his four-nation Asian-Pacific tour as "more jobs for Americans," voices of criticism came both from home and abroad. The countries he was visiting complained and the U.S. domestic opinion tended to be self-reflective.

The NEW YORK TIMES in its 31 December editorial said that the purpose of President Bush's visit was to revitalize the important cooperative relations in the Asia-Pacific region in the post-cold war era, severely criticizing the attitude of waging a "sacred war" with allies because of U.S. domestic politics. The WASHINGTON POST on 2 January also noted through its editorial that the U.S. trade deficit was a domestic problem caused by excessive spending and criticized that raising the issue of trade friction during President Bush's visit would be an act of narrow-mindedness.

We do not think that the United States is totally responsible for its trade deficit. We admit that a considerable portion of it results from unfair trade practices. In particular, the United States ought to explore ways to correct the situation with those countries which are steadily going into the black in trade with the United States.

However, the ROK-U.S. trade relations are different. The ROK, which suffered a $9.6 billion trade deficit in

1991, recorded a trade deficit with the United States as well, breaking the previous pattern. ROK-U.S. trade relations achieved a balanced state. Therefore, the United States has in general no reason to put trade pressure on the ROK. The task lying ahead is to give some partial adjustments to bring sound ROK-U.S. trade relations.

As for the opening of the rice market, which is the item of prime interest for the ROK in connection with President Bush's visit, the United States is approaching us on the basis of its global trade policy to settle the Uruguay Round. The United States should not corner the ROK, its ally, into an unbearable difficulty.

A more important task facing U.S. President Bush, who visited the ROK 2 years and 9 months ago, is to explore cooperative relations in the new order. The ROK and the United States, which have traditionally maintained close relations in security issues, ought to join their wisdom in order not to break this security in the Northeast Asian region after the cold-war era as well.

Because North Korea agreed to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and nuclear inspection, the U.S.-North Korean relations may make progress. As the diplomatic role of Germany and other West European countries has increased with the fall of the Soviet and East European communist camp, so the diplomatic role of the United States and Japan will increase in Northeast Asia in the near future.

With this perspective, U.S. President Bush's visit to the ROK is very significant, and we hope that this visit will bring forth an approach to cope with a new international order.

Trade Minister Details U.S., ROK Relations

SK0601034092 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 6 Jan 92 p 6

[By reporter Choe Song-chin]

[Text] For nearly a decade, words most frequently used here in describing the Korea-U.S. trade relationship were "friction" and "pressure."

Many Koreans tend to regard the U.S. President George Bush's three day state visit to Seoul as no more than a "top-class" sales mission to pry open the Korean market for everything from rice to banking, with good reasons.

A mental shift, however, is needed on both sides, as viewed by the Seoul government's top trade policymaker, for the two countries to achieve a near balance in the two-way trade.

"More importantly, both countries need each other's cooperation economically, not only as major export markets but as reciprocal industrial partners in the future," said Minister of Trade and Industry [MTI] Han Pong-su yesterday.

In an interview with The Korea Herald, Han said, "From now on, we (Korean and U.S. officials) will talk more often about 'trade projects' to be undertaken together rather than making and solving 'trade issues.'"

Citing that U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher termed Bush's entourage of top U.S. business executives as a "trade cooperation mission," Han said his main role during the U.S. officials' stay here will be to link together the businessmen of the two countries so that they can expand mutual understanding and seek better business opportunities in third countries, including those in the former socialist block.

Han admitted that differences in views on trade issues do exist between the two sides. He said he also expects more requests for wider market access, an issue he said belongs to a "businesslike" domain rather than to a trade policy.

"My own view in the bilateral trade talks is that we need to make it clear about what we can and cannot accept and be able to give good reasons for any refusal, while asking for a similar stance from our dialogue partners," said Han, who was sworn in as the trade-industry minister less than a month ago.

The 65-year-old technocrat, who has held many economic posts in and outside the government, described his latest portfolio as a "surgeon to prevent the tumor from developing into a cancer," referring to the nation's ballooning trade gap, which approached nearly $10 billion last year.

"The trade shortfall, if left uncurbed, will threaten the country's economic life," he said. "But any hasty, stopgap measures will fail to 'fundamentally' cure the structural economic ills, only resulting in its temporary cessation and recurrence."

He said that enough has been said about the diagnosis and remedies about Korea's ailing export industry—ever-falling competitiveness—and what is needed now is action.

He said he visited a small company during the New Year holidays.

"The 20-odd workers there kept working while most of the people throughout the country were resting," he said. "They worked under the slogan of 'Let's make the world's best product.' What else do you think can save this country from falling?"

He said the government will do its best to narrow the trade gap by taking all appropriate measures.

He said his ministry will help firms ease the credit crunch by pumping more money into them, find more skilled manpower and try to cool the domestic demand.

Because the final responsibility in the free market economy will fall on the firms themselves, the government's role to help them strengthen their competitiveness has its own limits, he said.

"The government has no intention of curbing imports only to reduce trade losses," he said, "because any direct control on imports, besides causing trade frictions with foreign countries, will hurt our exports in the long run."

Rather, the ministry will try to more effectively control the domestic demand, curb housing starts, discourage wasteful use of energy and localize more machinery to minimize harmful effects from excessive and nonessential imports.

"Whenever our companies suffer from unfair trade practices of foreign firms in the domestic market, the government will come to their rescue with industrial safeguard devices," he said.

He said the key to solving the country's huge trade deficit should be found in rectifying the chronic trade losses with Japan, which account for 76 percent of Seoul's total trade losses, with $8.2 billion last year.

"To crack the Japanese market, Korean firms should first know their unique distribution system, better meet delivery schedules on time, provide better after-sales services, and most of all, give the better finishing touches to products," he said.

In this area too, Korean businessmen should make more intimate contracts with their Japanese counterparts before complaining about their negligence in technology transfer, he said.

He said during the scheduled visit to Korea by Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa Jan. 16, the ministry will strive hard to reduce tariff and nontariff barriers to Korea's main export items, and activate tech transfer between the small businesses.

The government's economic support to former and present socialist countries will from now on be made in keeping with the Korean firms' advances into these countries, Han said.

He said the trade expansion with North Korea also needs to be examined under strictly economic context.

Touching on the Korean government's position in the ongoing GATT's Uruguay Round of free trade talks, as well as in other multilateral trade negotiations, Han said that any country may try to maximize their own economic interests in world markets but that should be made within the boundary of international rules and practices.

The trade-industry minister said he will train more MTI officials as topnotch trade negotiators who could meet international standards, while encouraging them to formulate "consensus" with the domestic industrialists at home.

Foreign Minister Views Foreign Policy for 1992

SK0401004292 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Jan 92 pp 1, 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok by staff reporter Kim Hye-won on 3 January—place not given]

[Text] Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok expects normalization of diplomatic ties between Seoul and Beijing shortly as a result of improving inter-Korean relations and increasing trade between Korea and China.

He counsels constant vigilance from South Korea and its allies to have North Korea fully implement its promises on nuclear issues.

In an interview with this paper yesterday, Yi said political relations have been developing rapidly between Korea and China following a remarkable growth in economic and trade relations.

"The fact that I met Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen twice last year attests to the developing political relations between South Korea and China. Diplomatic contact between the two countries has become more frequent since I met Qian.

"It is inevitable for the two countries to normalize ties in the not too distant future. But I don't want to predict when it will happen. But it's true that the Korean government wants an early settlement of the issue," the minister said.

A top presidential aide Monday predicted that Seoul and Beijing would set up diplomatic ties sometime this year.

Yi is to visit Beijing in April for the first time as South Korean foreign minister to attend a general meeting of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific. His Beijing visit is expected to mark a turning point in Korea-China relations. There he will negotiate with Chinese leadership the normalization of ties between Seoul and Beijing.

Yi said normalizing relations with China, a close ally of North Korea, would be moved up when the two Koreas improve relations.

He said North Korea's nuclear policy is apparently going through a transition for domestic, political and economic reasons.

Politically, he said, the North Koreans need better relations with South Korea for smooth succession of power from Kim Il-song to his son, Chong-il.

The North Koreans also seem to understand that they should settle the nuclear issue first if they want to improve relations with Japan, the United States and other Western countries, Yi said. The North Koreans are in need of help from those countries to overcome the present economic difficulties, he said.

"Despite these hopeful signs, we should be fully guarded against the possibility that North Koreans may delay signing the nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) or implementing it," Yi said.

South and North Korea initialed an accord making the Korean Peninsula nuclear-free Dec. 31, where they would give up possessing nuclear reprocessing and uranium enrichment facilities and declare peaceful use of nuclear energy only, among other things.

He predicted rapid progress in inter-Korean relations in the case that North Korea faithfully implements its promises on nuclear questions.

The historical accord on reconciliation and nonaggression, signed by the South and North Korean prime ministers in December, will be fully put into force once the nuclear issues are cleared, he said.

The other fields that will be given emphasis this year are, he said, more active multilateral diplomatic activities as a U.N. member, and closer relations with the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) members and other Pacific countries.

The foreign minister said Korea's relationship with Israel, Egypt, Syria and South Africa would also improve this year.

He said Israel already revealed its plan to reopen its embassy in Seoul, which was closed in 1978.

"With the Middle East peace process under progress, we will improve our relations with Israel through a step-by-step approach without affecting our traditional relationship with Arab countries," he said.

Egyptians also showed their intentions to upgrade relations with Seoul by opening a consulate general in Seoul recently, he said. He had spoken of Korea's hope to improve relations with Syria when he met his Syrian counterpart at the United Nations last fall, he said.

"We will continue our efforts to set up diplomatic relations with Egypt and Syria this year," Yi said.

The minister said the Korean government lifted most of its economic sanctions against South Africa two months ago, following the 1990 lifting of a ban on tourist exchanges and business relations with the country. He expected the relationship between Korea and South Africa to develop step by step.

Minister Yi did not expect U.S. President George Bush and his party to exert hard pressure on Korea in trade issues as the nation's trade balance with the United States has already turned to a deficit. Many pending trade issues between the two countries have already settled, he said.

"We are in a different situation from where the Japanese are. Their trade with the United States recorded a $40 billion surplus. Too great a surplus in trade with a certain country is a burden," the minister said.

He said Bush is bringing U.S. businessmen on his Asia trip for domestic political and economic purposes but Koreans do not have to interpret the fact as an indication of increasing pressure.

"We may utilize the chance to correct the U.S. businessmen's bias, if any, about Korea or claiming our demands," he said.

He said Korea-U.S. ties will continue to be a pillar in security on the Korean Peninsula and East Asia. "We also need firm security for solving the problems with North Koreans."

"Bush's forthcoming Seoul visit, which is made when the security environment on the Korean peninsula and throughout Northeast Asia has drastically changed, will provide a significant momentum in removing the legacies of the Cold war in the region and establishing a new peace mechanism in the region," he said.

DPRK Envoy Says Nation Ready for N-Inspection

SK0401000392 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2100 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Report by Correspondent Pak Won-hum from Paris]

[Text] Kim Su-ik, permanent representative of North Korea's general mission in Paris, said that North Korea is prepared to accept international inspections of its nuclear development and that simultaneous nuclear inspections of the South and North would be possible beginning this year.

In an interview granted to the French daily LIBERATION on 3 January, Representative Kim Su-ik said that North Korea respects its agreement with South Korea on denuclearization after repeatedly stressing North Korea's will for denuclearization.

In particular, Representative Kim looked ahead to the possibility of simultaneous inspections in the South and North being conducted by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] beginning this year, saying that the IAEA is the most appropriate organization for nuclear inspection. Then, commenting on the possibility of a South-North summit meeting in March, he said that there are no obstacles to the summit meeting and that he believes it will be held in the near future.

Burma

Flights Expanded to Singapore, Indonesia

BK1312101991 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Myanmar Airways of the Ministry of Transport and Communications will expand its current weekly Yangon [Rangoon]- Singapore-Yangon flights—Nos. UB231 and UB232—on Sundays and Thursdays effective 9 January 1992. The expanded flights—Nos. UB243 and UB244—will fly Yangon-Singapore-Jakarta-Singapore-Yangon route.

Details can be obtained by phoning to number 73842 at the External Sales Department of the Myanmar Airways headquarters on Strand Street, Rangoon.

Saw Maung Sends Independence Day Message

BK0401052992 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0031 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Independence Day message from Senior General Saw Maung, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, read by Major General Myo Nyunt, commander of the Rangoon Command and chairman of the Yangon [Rangoon] Law and Order Restoration Council, at the Independence Day ceremony held at Rangoon's People's Square—live]

[Text] I cordially and respectfully greet the people of all the national races on this auspicious day, 4 January, the date of the 44th anniversary of independence of our Union of Myanmar [Burma].

Our Union of Myanmar, which existed as a sovereign state for thousands of years, was unjustly annexed and subjugated into servitude by avaricious Britist imperialists who waged three wars of agression against our country during the 19th century. Our fraternal people of the national races upheld their patriotism and took up any available weapons and resisted and fought against the British imperialist aggression, annexation, and subjugation. The contribution of these patriotic members of indigenous races such as Kachin, Kayah, Chin, Bamah [Burmese], Mon, Rakhine, and Shan to the anticolonialist struggle for national liberation shall be enshrined in the annals of our history till the end of time.

There were also millions of indigenous people who, like these heroes who strove to regain independence, participated in many battles in the course of the struggle. They include members of the Defense Services who are sons of indigenous people, public servants, and the public. Our indigenous people, who made great sacrifices in terms of human life, sweat, and blood in their struggle for and defense of independence, must pass on to their descendants the duty of safeguarding the country's independence in the present as well as the future.

In objectively reviewing world events in the late 20th Century, we can sadly see how some countries were subjected to aggression while some were subjected to interference by powerful nations. This resulted in a complicated international situation, the disintegration of unity, and infighting within countries.

In the world today countries big and small have different characteristics determined by their respective traditions, customs, historical heritages, and religious and political foundations. Despite their divergent social and historical traditions, the countries of the world must strive to live in peaceful coexistence in the interests of world peace. Under these circumstances powerful nations are striving again to manipulate and control in order to shape international events according to their wishes. There remain instances of these nations taking sides and practising discrimination. Members of the world community should not accept such practices and should strive to remove this unprincipled control, manipulation, and interference by powerful nations.

Our Union of Myanmar will steadfastly remain committed to its openly declared policy of an independent and active foreign policy and respect and observe the principles contained in the United Nations Charter.

Today's colonialist-imperialists have still not given up their evil habits and traits. They are employing new tactics in the form of neocolonialism and are still trying to dominate small countries. When the imperialists had no choice but to give up our country they tried to destroy Myanmar as in the maxim: throwing sand at beef which one cannot eat. They intended to again subjugate Myanmar, sooner or later. They employed sly and vicious schemes in the form of instigations which resulted in suspicion, hatred, and antagonism among our own indigenous people. As the maxim says: The more serious the condition of the patient, the more pleased is the physician. The imperialists became bolder in their attempt to create complicated problems and crisis in Myanmar and to cause the country to disintegrate. Their work can be more clearly seen in the events of 1988.

Therefore, we must remain vigilant against enemies who pretend to be friends, and we must strive without fail to obtain national unity among our indigenous people and safeguard our independence, which was obtained at the cost of many lives and much sweat and blood, and prevent ourselves from once again becoming enslaved by a foreign power. We must give priority to the task of further strengthening and consolidating our internal strength.

With this conviction, the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] shall strive to uphold the three causes—preventing disintegration of the Union and disintegartion of national unity, and pepetuating sovereignty; ensuring prevalence of law and order and local peace and tranquility; ensuring smooth and safe transport and communications; easing people's needs for food, clothes, and shelter; paying special attention to and safeguarding work and responsibility for development of all national races residing in Myanmar; and fully carrying out national construction and defense tasks with the people's cooperation.

On this occasion of the 44th Independence Day, I urge the indigenous people to correctly review and study the ongoing changes in the international situation and our own internal situation and nurture and uphold patriotism so as to ensure perpetuation of the state and prosperity for the people. Furthermore, we must relentlessly strive to nurture and promote patriotism which opposes imperialists, neoimperialists, and minions and lackeys of imperialists.

I urge the people to relentlessly implement the four objectives of the 44th Independence Day—1. be forever united in safeguarding and ensuring perpetuation of the nation's independence and sovereignty; 2. promote love of independence, patriotism, and national strength; 3. cooperate with the Defense Services in national economic development; and 4. promote patriotism.

Saw Maung Hosts Dinner

BK0401145792 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Senior General Saw Maung, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], and his wife, Daw Aye Yi, hosted a reception and dinner in commemoration of the 44th anniversary Independence Day at the People's Assembly Building this evening at 1830.

Sen. Gen. Saw Maung and his wife, Daw Aye Yi, after arriving at the reception accompanied by General Than Shwe, deputy chairman of SLORC, and members, greeted the dean of the diplomatic corps, diplomats, and their wives. [passage omitted]

During dinner, the Voice of Myanmar music troupe and the Fine Arts Department entertained the guests with pop and traditional songs. After dinner the guests were also entertained to a drama at the theater performed by the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture.

Commission Revokes Status of More NLD MPs

BK0301032492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] The Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] issued Announcement No. 995 on 2 January.

Subject: Nullification of the status as People's Assembly representatives of five persons who infringed Section 11-J of the People's Assembly Election Law.

1. The following persons from the National League for Democracy [NLD] mentioned below in Subsections A, B, C, D and an independent mentioned in Subsection E, who were elected as People's Assembly representatives during the multiparty democratic general elections on 27 May 1990, have been found guilty of the offenses listed below:

A. U Hla Tun, 12/Sakhana-Naing 029939, Kemmendine Township constituency, Yangon [Rangoon] Division—Section 122-1 of the Penal Code.

B. U Tha Saing, 12/Tathana-Naing 02 [illegible] Twantwe Township constituency-1, Yangon Division—Section 122-1 of the Penal Code.

C. U Myint Kyi, ATA-021327, Katha Township constituency, Sagaing Division—Section 122-1 of the Penal Code.

D. U Myint Naing, SPR-094551, Kanbalu Township constituency-2, Sagaing Division—Section 122-1 of the Penal Code.

E. U Thein Pe, CRDN-000111, Kanbalu Township constituency-1, Sagaing Division—Section 122-1 of the Penal Code.

2. They are found to have infringed Section 11-J of the People's Assembly Election Law and hence, no longer have the right to continue to be People's Assemby representatives. Their status as elected representatives has been nullified.

3. It is also hereby announced that in accordance with Section 80-A of the People's Assembly Election Law, the four persons mentioned in Section 1 shall no longer have the right to run for elections in the future.

By the authority vested in me.

Signed: Aye Maung, secretary

Government Troops Preparing for Offensive

BK0401073092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0707 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 4 (AFP)—The Burmese Army is poised to launch a massive dry season offensive against ethnic guerrilla strongholds near the Burmese-Thai border, a guerrilla officer said Saturday.

Rangoon is deploying two full divisions to launch large-scale operations against a string of camps held by the guerrillas of the Karen National Union (KNU) near the border, KNU Captain Gyaw Kye said.

"We expect the two divisions, with a combined strength of more than 20,000 and recently re-supplied with Chinese-made heavy weapons, to advance on our headquarters in Manerplaw," the KNU officer said in a telephone interview from Thailand's border township of Mae Sot.

Manerplaw, a well-defended KNU stronghold protected by rugged mountains 30 kilometres (18 miles) from the Thai border, is also the seat of Burma's jungle-based opposition party, the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma.

"The KNU only has less than 10,000 men to defend Manerplaw's advance positions. We are outmanned and outgunned and our munitions supply is low, but we are determined to fight," the KNU officer said.

Burmese troops have been shelling the KNU's Kawmoora and Ye Gyaw camps, both south of Manerplaw, since last week, he said.

Meanwhile, Thai Border Patrol Police units deployed on Thailand's border with Burma have been put on alert to prevent the fighting from spilling over into Thai territory, a Thai official in Mae Sot said.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir: U.S. Disrespectful of Others' Rights

BK0601072692 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0640 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 6 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The United States' rejection of the East Asia Economic Caucus [EAEC] shows its disrespect for the rights of other nations, Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Monday.

He said: "That country will not just stop there. It may resort to a certain form of action and this means violating the concept of a free and independent nation."

"If the U.S. objects to the EAEC concept mooted by Malaysia, it should decide so on its own accord and not force other countries to back its decision," he said when opening a programme on project appraisal and risk analysis management here.

Dr. Mahathir said he would raise the issue at the ASEAN summit in Singapore on January 27.

He was commenting on U.S. President George Bush's statement during his visit to Singapore last Saturday that the United States was not in favour of the EAEC.

The prime minister said Singapore's move to allow the U.S. to relocate the American military logistics facility from Manila to the republic was consistent with Singapore's earlier explanation on the matter to ASEAN member countries.

"Singapore only agrees to provide facilities for repair and servicing of U.S. Navy ships and not allow it to set up a new naval base there," he said.

As such the U.S. would only deploy to Singapore personnel required for that kind of duty and not transfer the entire naval command from Manila, he said.

Dr. Mahathir said he did not see the neccessity for an American military base in the region.

Vice Minister on New U.S. Base in Singapore

BK0501150792 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1430 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] The government will monitor a U.S. plan to transfer its naval logistical facility from Subic Bay in the Philippines to Singapore next year. Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said that Malaysia and other ASEAN countries would oppose any attempts to establish a new U.S. naval base in Singapore. The establishment of such a naval base runs counter to the ASEAN concept of peace, freedom, and neutrality.

Datuk Dr. Abdullah Fadzil was commenting on President Bush's announcement that Singapore and the United States had agreed in principle on the transfer of that facility. Datuk Dr. Abdullah said that ASEAN only would agree to the transfer if that facility is designed simply to repair and (?maintain) warships.

Minister Hails Singapore Support for Trade Group

BK0601075092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0327 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 6 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia welcomed Singapore's affirmation to the United States of the island republic's support for the proposed East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC).

Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Malaysia was glad with the Singapore Government's explanation to the U.S. on the EAEC and why it strongly supported the concept.

"We know that Singapore is one ASEAN country that strongly supports the Malaysia-initiated EAEC," he told reporters here, Sunday.

Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong conveyed the Singapore stand to President George Bush during his visit to the republic Saturday.

President Bush told reporters later that the U.S. was not in favour of the EAEC because it did not want the world to be divided into exclusive trade blocs.

"The U.S. has its reasons, other than economic, for rejecting the EAEC and this is its right. We also have our rights as this is democratic practice," Abdullah said.

"Malaysia also supports the principle of rejecting economic blocs and trade protectionism and as such finds the US stand on EAEC perplexing," he added.

Abdullah said that whether the EAEC would be formed depended on ASEAN, and not the U.S.

He said President Bush's statement was not something new as it had been known that the U.S. was not enthusiastic about the EAEC.

Singapore

President Bush Arrives for State Visit

BK0301113592 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Excerpt] President George Bush is in Singapore for a three-day state visit. It is the first time that a U.S. president is visiting Singapore. Mr. Bush flew in on Air Force One, the presidential (?plane), a short while ago. He was received by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong, who is also the minister-in-attendance.

Also present were the minister for foreign affairs, Mr. Wong Kan Seng, Singapore ambassador to the United States, Mr. S.R. Nathan, and the U.S. ambassador to Singapore, Mr. Robert Orr. President Bush is accompanied by First Lady Mrs. Barbara Bush, the commerce secretary, Mr. Robert Mosbacher, and the national security adviser, General Brent Scrowcroft.

Singapore is the second leg of the U.S. leader's 12-day (?Asian) tour. A Foreign Ministry spokesman says Singapore is pleased and honored by President Bush's visit. It is good for bilateral relations and for the region. [passage omitted]

Minister Discusses Trade Treaty

BK0501121692 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong has said that the proposed bilateral investment treaty between Singapore and the United States will have symbolic importance.

Gen. Lee, who is also the minister for trade and industry, said the proposed treaty would give a psychological (?influence) and generate more investments. He was speaking to reporters after seeing off U.S. President George Bush at Changgi Airport this morning.

President Bush, who was on a three-day state visit here, left for Seoul, the third leg of his four-nation tour of Asia.

Gen. Lee, who was the minister-in-attendance, said the U.S. President's visit [words indistinct] and it was a great privilege to host the American leader.

Bush's Asia Tour Viewed

BK0301123792 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Jan 92 p 24

[By Chai Kim Wah of the Foreign Desk]

[Text] President George Bush comes to Southeast Asia at a time of uncertainty over the United States' commitment to regional security and anxiety that its economic woes will drive it towards protectionism-cum-isolationism.

His trip has a dual purpose and a dual audience. As a diplomatic mission, it is intended to reassure ASEAN allies that the US is not retreating from the region even as it draws down its military forces and closes overseas bases.

As a trade mission, it is designed to reassure recession-hit Americans of his resolve to create more jobs by opening markets for US exports. The message to the home audience is that economic growth lies in expanding exports, not putting up barriers to imports.

For the ASEAN audience, he will stress that the US is a Pacific power that is not totally preoccupied with Europe and the Middle East.

The Asia-Pacific has been America's largest trading partner for the past decade. America's transpacific commerce amounts to US$300 billion in annual two-way trade and exceeds its trade across the Atlantic by one third.

ASEAN now ranks as the fifth-largest US trading partner with trade worth US$46 billion in 1990. US exports to ASEAN in 1991 are expected to grow by 14 percent to US$21.6 billion.

Despite this massive stake in the region, the Bush administration has been accused of neglecting the Asia-Pacific when post-Cold War changes are throwing up difficult questions and new challenges.

In South-east Asia, the end of the unifying Soviet menace is complicating the power balance, sharpening regional rivalries and casting up potential new flashpoints.

The settlement of the Cambodian conflict is nudging ASEAN to seek new directions—a free trade area and an informal dialogue on security co-operation. Japan is moving towards regional political leadership that matches its economic might.

The US has quit Clark air base in the Philippines. It will leave Subic Bay naval base, from where the US Seventh Fleet patrols vital sea lanes between the Middle East and Asia, by the end of this year.

In response to these developments, Mr Bush is expected to reiterate the US determination to maintain a military presence, albeit reduced, in the region, in order to play the role of stabiliser and honest broker.

However, he is not likely to offer anything more than reassurances of undiminished American interest and engagement. The catchword is "adjustment" of the US military's size and force structure to reflect post-Cold War realities.

What this means exactly is not yet clear. But the US-Singapore Memorandum of Understanding, which gives the US navy and air force greater access to Singapore's military facilities, is "a good example of the kind of new arrangements that our military would like to develop in

South-east Asia," according to Mr Richard Solomon, US Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

"We will be pursuing these kinds of arrangements with a number of other countries...our military is prepared to distribute its presence in the region," he said at a press briefing in Washington on Dec 20. The US Navy is also exploring the possibility of using ship-repair facilities in Malaysia and Brunei.

Despite a packed programme here, Singapore will be Mr Bush's easiest stopover.

In Australia, he faced angry wheat farmers demonstrating against heavily subsidised American grain exports which have pushed prices down to a 50-year low.

In South Korea, he is likely to encounter furious rice farmers protesting against US pressures to open up their rice market. And in Japan, he will face myriad market-access disputes.

But in Singapore, no contentious trade issues await Mr Bush. Singapore-US ties are characterised as problem-free by both sides—probably one of the main reasons Singapore was chosen as the platform from which Mr Bush will address ASEAN.

Singapore is cited by US officials as a exemplar of free trade, and "a superb stepping stone into the ASEAN market" of 330 million people.

It is America's 11th largest export market, importing US$12.3 billion worth of American products in the first eight months of last year. About 800 American companies operate here and direct US investment is more than US$9 billion.

Bilateral co-operation has also been strengthened with the signing of two important agreements: the Memorandum of Understanding in November 1990 and the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement last October.

"By and large, we have a very easy relationship. Communication flows easily," US ambassador Robert Orr told The STRAITS TIMES last week.

Hiccups of the late 1980s over gazetting of Time magazine and the Asian Wall Street Journal, Washington's removal of Singapore from the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) and the tit-for-tat expulsion of diplomats in the Hendrickson affair—seem to have been forgotten.

At a press briefing on Tuesday, a US embassy official noted that the visit was to highlight the close bilateral ties in the security and economic spheres. The two countries shared a similar outlook in security issues, and Singapore was the most outspoken supporter of US security in the Asia-Pacific region, he said.

"Because of Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew and the continuity provided by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, we continue to have a strong mutuality of interests," he said.

Mr Bush, he added, also valued Mr Lee's views on the region, especially those relating to China.

A Singapore Foreign Ministry spokesman said that because there were now no bilateral problems, there was no fixed agenda for discussions, just a general exchange of views. Nevertheless, Singapore leaders will raise with Mr Bush their worries about the stalled Uruguay round of GATT talks, and the danger of rival trade blocs emerging in America, Europe and Asia.

They will want to discuss how to prevent intensifying economic tension between the US and Japan from spiralling into a trade war. Thornier issues likely to come up include differences between ASEAN and the US over how to deal with the military regime in Myanmar [Burma] and US opposition to the ASEAN-endorsed proposal for an East Asian Economic Caucus that would exclude Washington.

Mr Bush's four-nation tour, touted as a "trade-first" trip with a business delegation in town, also demonstrates the ascendancy of economic concerns in the post-Cold War period—the most immediate being the slump in the US economy and in the president's popularity.

Under growing domestic pressure, he has framed his trip in terms of the US economy, telling Americans that each US$1 billion in new exports means 20,000 new jobs.

He is bringing along an entourage of 21 American corporate chiefs. It is the first time businessmen have joined a president as part of his official delegation. Eleven of them, representing various industry sectors, are accompanying Mr Bush to Singapore.

Mr Orr does not expect any business deals to come out of the short visit. "The main purpose is to get acquainted with the marketplace, find out what opportunities there may be for their products and come back in three to six months' time to start the process of normal business relations."

He disputed the view that this new commerical approach was a symptom of US economic decline and desperation to catch up. "For a very long time—all through the 50s and 60s—the USA had the good fortune of not having serious competition and we grew to the attitude that we did not have to work very hard to get business overseas."

Nor was it traditional for America's political leaders to give this special kind of leadership. But in the last decade or more, "the commercialisation of the world has taken place", he said. Mr Bush's business trip stems from the recognition that "if we expect to be able to function effectively, we have to be able to compete".

Government Recognizes 12 Former Soviet Republics

BK0301112692 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] The Singapore Government has recognised the independence and sovereignty of the 12 former Soviet republics.

They are Russia, Belarus, the Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Turkmenia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that Singapore is ready to establish diplomatic relations with them.

Singapore's Ambassador to the former Soviet Union in Moscow, Mr J.F. Conceicao, will now be accredited to the Russian Federation, it said.

It added that Singapore welcomes the entry of these republics into the community of nations and their membership of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Except for strife-torn Georgia, the 11 former Soviet republics now make up the Commonwealth of Independent States.

It replaces the Soviet Union, which was formally dissolved on Christmas Day with the resignation of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev as its president.

The new grouping aims to link members in a network of political, military and economic agreements, with no central authority.

Prime Minister Delivers New Year Address

BK3112151591 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] The prime minister says we can face up to the new year with confidence because we have worked hard, saved, and be prepared for the future. In his New Year message, Mr. Goh Chok Tong says we have enjoyed good economic growth and rising income because of our sound financial policy.

We have built up our assets and reserves and this in turn and others contribute a new program to improve the lives of Singaporeans. For example, apart from [word indistinct] free trade and [word indistinct], the government proposes a fair share of privatized statutory boards like Singapore Telecoms. This will help Singaporeans to further build up their efforts and to feel better for their future. The prime minister said we need bigger savings and broader worldwide investments so that we could have a broader economic savings in just Singapore.

He says we have 6.5 percent growth this year and barring further slowdown in the OECD countries, the growth rate next year should be at least 5 percent. Due to this, Mr. Goh adds, financial markets would also go more slowly. But good growth rates are expected in the tourism and trade sectors. Construction, transport and communications, and business services should continue to do well next year.

Mr. Goh says in the next 20 years, Singapore's economic growth will slow down and savings rate will decline as our population ages. We must build us a nest egg in our reserves to invest them abroad for strategic reasons while economic growth is high and income is rising. Mr. Goh points out that some Singaporeans have questioned the need to keep on accumulating reserves. He says these people are wrong to question the thrift and prudence. Our financial reserves are the only reserves we have. They are our safety net to prevent our society from breaking down during a prolonged international crisis. Summing up, Mr. Goh says we must continue to build up our cultural and national traits. The prime minister wishes all a happy and prosperous new year.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Says Elections May Be Postponed

BK0601044692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0442 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 6 (AFP)—Cambodia's United Nations- supervised elections may not take place before 1994, according to a statement of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of the country's reconciliation body.

In a message to "his beloved compatriots" circulated by his office here, the Supreme National Council (SNC) chairman said the elections would be "in 1993 or 1994."

Earlier indications by Cambodian officials and diplomats had given the beginning of 1993 as the target date for elections to Cambodia's 120-seat future National Assembly.

But implementation of the peace treaty signed in October in Paris to end the 13-year war between Phnom Penh's Vietnam-installed government and its guerrilla adversaries has been slowed by unrest in the Cambodian capital and lingering distrust between the rival factions.

Diplomats also point out that the holding of the polls hinges on the planned UN-organised repatriation of some 350,000 refugees living in camps on Thailand's border with Cambodia, which are controlled by the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge and other factions.

In his statement Prince Sihanouk said he had "no possibility of assisting directly" Cambodians to protect them against terrorism or banditry as he holds "no government or executive power."

The SNC was formed under the peace accord with representatives of all rival Cambodian factions.

But it has been able to meet only once so far in Phnom Penh, in late December. The meeting was postponed after an attack a month earlier on Khmer Rouge leaders in the capital by an angry crowd in retaliation for their bloody rule over the Southeast Asian nation between 1975 and 1979, and subsequent violent demonstrations against Phnom Penh Government corruption.

"I have asked the UN on several occasions to send its special representative and UNTAC very quickly to protect you, my beloved compatriots. I don't know when they will come to Cambodia," Prince Sihanouk also said.

Under the Paris agreement, a UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) with a total strength of up to 20,000, half of them military personnel, is to lead the war-ravaged country to free and fair elections.

The UN is "to bear responsibility for the interim administration of all of Cambodia pending free general elections in 1993 or 1994," the prince said in his statement.

Chea Sim Denies Rifts Within Leadership

BK0401065292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0639 GMT 4 Jan 92

[By Charles-Antoine de Nerciat]

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 4 (AFP)—Phnom Penh's National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim on Saturday brushed aside reports of rifts within the Phnom Penh leadership, which he ascribed to "provocation from outside" the government.

"We are in complete accord," Chea Sim said here of the Phnom Penh leadership, adding, "reports on frictions are just propaganda. They also amount to provocation from the outside." He specifically denied the existence of any conflict between himself and Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Speculation about divisions within the Phnom Penh leadership, particularly between Chea Sim, widely considered the regime's strongman, and Hun Sen, has resurfaced in the wake of last month's violent unrest which left at least seven dead in the Cambodian capital.

The anti-corruption and pro-human rights demonstrations, which momentarily cast a shadow over the fragile peace between the Phnom Penh government and guerrillas dominated by the Khmer Rouge, prompted the National Assembly to adopt measures to control street violence.

The law was said, however, to have been adopted after heated debate during which strong reservations were expressed by Foreign Minister Hor Namhong and Interior Minister Sin Song, who reportedly considered it too moderate.

Chea Sim himself, at the time, blamed the riots on "internal reactionaries" in a striking departure from statements by Hun Sen that the violence was provoked by armed outsiders.

But on Saturday Chea Sim told AFP that "external reactionary forces" were responsible for the unrest. He declined to be more specific.

Chea Sim said "there was no reason whatsoever for splits" within Phnom Penh's ruling party. The party chairman described by some analysts as a hard-liner is believed to have occasionally had differences with Hun Sen, who is both premier and deputy party chief.

The 60-year-old Chea Sim made the remarks as he was leaving for the seaside resort of Phatthaya, where he is to have talks with Thai military chief Suchinda Khraprayun. He said he had received medical treatment in a military hospital here. He did not elaborate, but added, "I feel better now."

Chea Sim, who arrived here Wednesday and is scheduled to return to Phnom Penh from Phatthaya on Monday, is reported to have suffered a mild stroke in late 1989.

Another senior Phnom Penh party official, Say Bouthang, came here with Chea Sim, also for unspecified medical treatment, aides said. Say Bouthang left for Phatthaya, 150 kilometers (90 miles) southeast of here, shortly after Chea Sim. The two Phnom Penh leaders, who met briefly with General Suchinda on Thursday, were to hold more talks with the Thai military chief before returning to the Cambodian capital, the aides said.

Chea Sim said he was "optimistic" about prospects for peace in Cambodia, pledging that Phnom Penh would do "its utmost" to abide by the October Paris accord which put an end to almost 13 years of war in the Southeast Asian nation.

He called on the guerrillas to also comply with the peace treaty. "We will not do anything which may damage the peace process. I hope that all parties concerned will strictly comply with the accord," he said.

Hun Sen Says ICRC Delayed Prisoner Release

BK0601065892 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0441 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 6—Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen blames the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for his [as received] cancelling Saturday's release of political prisoners.

"The delay was caused by the ICRC," Hun Sen told AFP in an interview in which he said he was not aware of the ICRC's universal criteria for monitoring the release of prisoners.

The government is required under a peace treaty ending the civil war to release all political and war prisoners under ICRC supervision.

The ICRC and the UN Advance Mission here turned down a last minute invitation to stand at prison exits with the media and watch detainees file out, calling the event a "propagada show."

Hun Sen said: Right now there is a process of consultation between our government and the ICRC. Of course we don't know yet [what] the ICRC wanted. But I believe this delay won't be long."

He predicted the prisoners—400 in total from two city prisons and one in Kompong Cham—could be released next week, but said that depended on an agreement with the ICRC.

The prime minister said he did not know the exact number of political and war prisoners being held by the government.

But at a press conference in November he said all but two small groups who tried to assassinate him had been released.

Hun Sen said any delay in releasing prisoners was caused by the slow process of distinguishing penal crimes from political crimes.

"Some political prisoners were implicated in penal crimes, for example robbery, killings or rape," he said. "Therefore we will have to endeavor to clarify this problem."

200 SRV Troops Allegedly Sent to Battambang

BK0601023492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] According to a report from the Supreme Command of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK], between 1 and 3 January the Hanoi authorities sent 200 more Vietnamese troops to Moung District of Battambang Province to launch activities violating the Cambodian peace accord.

1. On 1 January the Hanoi authorities sent 100 Vietnamese troops to Moung District of Battambang Province.

2. On 2 January the Vietnamese aggressors sent another 130-mm mortar and a multiple rocket battery to Moung District and fired hundreds of shells into our liberated areas.

3. On 3 January the Vietnamese aggressors fired hundreds of artillery shells into our liberated areas in Moung District.

4. Also on 3 January they sent 100 more Vietnamese troops hidden in Battambang Province to deploy at Prek Chik in Moung District.

The above-mentioned activities were a part of the Hanoi aggressors' and their cohorts' schemes to destroy the peace agreement.

The Cambodian people and NADK are well aware of these dark schemes of the Hanoi authorities and their cohorts. This is why they have persistently demanded that the United Nations dispatch sufficient contingents of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] to Cambodia in line with the peace agreement which clearly defines their number, term, and duties, and that full power and right as the sole representative of Cambodia be given the Supreme National Council so it can work with UNTAC in implementing the agreement to end the Vietnamese war of aggression.

More on SRV Truce Violations

BK0601031892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Since 27 December, the Vietnamese aggressors in Moung District of Battambang Province have continued to send troops and many tanks, multiple rocket batteries, and artillery pieces to shell and attack our Cambodian national resistance forces in this area.

The Vietnamese aggressors arranged this offensive in two prongs. The first prong was aimed at an area between Moung River and O Tranoap Koki or O Prak. The second prong was launched from the southern part of Phnum Rung toward Phnum Basak and (Bok Dok) in an attempt to seize our territory in this area.

Heated fighting between the Vietnamese aggressors and our Cambodian national resistance forces is still going on.

At the same time, the Vietnamese aggressors have shot to death many inhabitants who went out to look for rattan or [words indistinct] in this area. The Vietnamese aggressors have also planted many mines in this area.

It has also been reported that the Vietnamese aggressors have deployed many artillery pieces to shell the Cambodian national resistance forces when they are mobilized for supervision by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia.

This is another cease-fire violation committed by the Vietnamese aggressors.

Our people have said that the Vietnamese aggressors do not want to implement the peace agreement. It is known to all that the Vietnamese aggressors are notorious violators of all accords. [passage omitted]

U.S. Representative Solarz Arrives for Visit

BK0101113492 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1110 GMT 1 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 1 Jan (SPK)—A U.S. congressional delegation headed by U.S. Representative Stephen Solarz, chairman of the Asia-Pacific Affairs Subcommittee, arrived here this morning for an official visit to Cambodia.

It was greeted at Pochentong Airport by Mr. Long Visalo, deputy foreign minister, Cheam Yiep, director general of tourism, and others.

During their two-day visit, the U.S. congressmen will be received by Mr. Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Mr. Hor Namhong, minister of foreign affairs of the State of Cambodia. They will pay a courtesy call to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia.

This is Mr. Stephen Solarz's fourth visit to Cambodia, the first being in January 1981, the second in December 1984, and the third in March 1989.

Meets Hun Sen, Hor Namhong

BK0201052892 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0437 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 2—Prime Minister Hun Sen met in Phnom Penh Wednesday [1 January] U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz, who is on a two-day visit to Cambodia.

Prime Minister Hun Sen expressed thanks to Stephen Solarz for his close cooperation with Australian Senator Gareth Evans in initiating a formula to solve the Cambodian problem.

He informed the U.S. congressman of the application of the peace accords and measures to prevent the return of the past calamity, the changes of the party political platform and the latest development in Cambodia.

Mr. Solarz, chairman of the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, was on his fourth visit to Cambodia.

He acknowledged Prime Minister Hun Sen as a great contributor to the peace agreement for Cambodia and pledged to do all in his capacity to bring peace to the country.

He expected that peace would come in Cambodia soon.

In a separate talk, Foreign Minister Hor Namhong told Stephen Solarz that peace agreement could be well implemented while there would be the presence of special representative of the UN secretary and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia].

He affirmed that the State of Cambodia would abide by the peace accord 100 per cent.

On political prisoners, Hor Namhong said all political detainees would be freed in the future.

He requested for an early sending of special representative of UN secretary general and UNTAC so as to accelerate the implementation of peace accord in Cambodia.

On his way out of a meeting with Prime Minister Hun Sen, Solarz said the five permanent members of the UN Security Council have a "moral and political obligation" to make sure the United Nations transitional authority in Cambodia is financed and deployed as soon as possible.

The UNTAC operation, the largest-ever handled by the United Nations, is expected to cost one billion dollars with the United States furnishing 30 per cent.

Departs After Visit

BK0301115492 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1111 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 3 Jan (SPK)—Mr. Stephen Solarz, a representative to the U.S. Congress and chairman of the Asia-Pacific Affairs Subcommittee, left Phnom Penh Thursday, 2 January, at the end of a two-day visit to Cambodia.

During his stay, Mr. Stephen Solarz paid a courtesy call on Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC) who hosted a reception in his honor. The congressman was received by Mr. Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, and Mr. Hor Namhong, Cambodian minister of foreign affairs, and visited the Angkor temples.

That was Stephen Solarz's fourth visit to Cambodia during which he pledged to do his best for peace in that country.

Chinese Representative Meets Hun Sen 23 Dec

BK2812035291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] According to various sources, on 23 December 1991 Fu Xuezhang, Chinese envoy to the Supreme National Council [SNC] in Phnom Penh, met with Hun Sen, leader of the Phnom Penh side, to enquire about the evolution of the situation concerning demonstrations and mass movements in Phnom Penh.

During the talks, Hun Sen expressed great concern to the point of showing even despair. Hun Sen said to Fu Xuezhang, Chinese envoy to the SNC, that the situation should be watched for another week to assess the evolution of demonstrations and mass movements.

Defense Minister Receives PRC Representative

BK0201063292 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0442 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 2—Fu Xuezhang, permanent representative of the People's Republic of China to the SNC [Supreme National Council], paid a courtesy visit to Defence Minister Tie Banh here Tuesday.

Tie Banh, who is also member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, welcomed the PRC chief diplomatic mission in Cambodia and recalled China's solidarity with Cambodia and its assistance to the Cambodian people in the past.

He expressed the Phnom Penh Government's effort to implement the peace accord signed in Paris in October last year by firstly supervising the application of the cease-fire as from January 1, 1992.

He said that the State of Cambmdia was ready to facilitate the mission of UNAMIC (United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia) and UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia).

Hun Sen Meets With Russian Representative

BK0501075492 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, granted an audience to H.E. Yuriy Myakotnykh, the Russian Federation's representative to Cambodia, on 2 January.

At the meeting, H.E. Yuriy Myakotnykh spoke of the changes in the former Soviet Union and the latter's succession by the Russian Federation. He also talked about the prospects for bilateral relations between the State of Cambodia [SOC] and the Russian Federation, specifically bilateral economic cooperation.

For his part, H.E. Hun Sen thanked the Russian envoy for the detailed briefing as well as his welcome of the stance of the SOC, which does not want to prolong the transitional period between a settlement of the Cambodian problem and the implementation of the Paris accord. The Cambodian leader also asked the Russian envoy to call on the United Nations to dispatch a special representative to Cambodia at the earliest possible date.

Sihanouk Recognizes Former USSR Republics

Message to Armenian Republic

BK0401020692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 3 Jan 92

["27 December message of greetings from Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman of the Supreme National Council, to His Excellency Levon Ter-Petrosyan, president of the Armenian Republic"—read by announcer]

[Text] On behalf of the Cambodian people, the Cambodian SNC, and in my own name, I am honored to send Your Excellency warm congratulations and wishes on the historic establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States which includes the Armenian Republic.

On behalf of independent and unified Cambodia, which is also a member of the United Nations, and on behalf of the Cambodian SNC with me as chairman, we truly acknowledge that the Armenian Republic is a sovereign and independent state with its own territorial integrity. We firmly believe in the existing traditional relations of friendship between our two countries and people and the multiform cooperation for constant progress.

It is with these sentiments that I would like to send Your Excellency best wishes for complete success in your historic mission to lead the Armenian Republic. Best wishes to the Armenian people for happiness and prosperity.

Please accept our high and sincere consideration.

Greetings to Kyrgyzstan

BK0401103492 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 4 Jan 92

["27 December message of greetings from Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, to Kyrgystan President His Excellency Askar Akayev"—read by announcer]

[Text] On behalf of the Cambodian people and Supreme National Council [SNC] and in my own name, I would like to convey to Your Excellency the warmest greetings on the historic creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, of which Kyrgyzstan Republic is a member.

On behalf of independent and united Cambodia, a member of the United Nations, the SNC of which I am chairman definitely recognizes the Kyrgyzstan Republic as a sovereign and independent state within its territorial integrity.

We firmly believe in the traditional relationship and multifarious cooperation between our two countries and peoples for constant progress.

Message to Moldovan Republic

BK0401145892 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 4 Jan 92

["29 December message of greetings from Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, to Moldovan President His Excellency Mircea Snegur"—read by announcer]

[Text] On behalf of the Cambodian people and Supreme National Council [SNC] and in my own name, I have the honor to convey to your excellency warmest greetings on the historic occasion of the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, of which the Moldovan Republic is a member.

On behalf of independent and united Cambodia, a member of the United Nations, the SNC of which I am chairman absolutely recognizes the Moldovan Republic as a sovereign and independent state within its territorial integrity.

We firmly believe in the traditional relationship and multifarious cooperation between our two countries and peoples for constant progress.

It is with this sentiment that I would like to extend to your excellency best wishes for the complete achievement of your historic mission at the helm of the Moldovan Republic.

May the Moldovan people achieve happiness and prosperity.

Your Excellency, please, accept our sincerest and highest salutations.

Greets Tajikistan Republic

BK0501063892 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 5 Jan 92

["27 December message of greetings from Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, to His Excellency Rakhman Nabiyev, president of the Tajikistan Republic"—read by announcer]

[Text] On behalf of the Cambodian people and the Cambodian Supreme National Council, and in my own name, I have the honor to convey to Your Excellency congratulations and warm wishes on the historic occasion of the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States, of which the Tajikistan Republic is a member.

On behalf of independent and unifed Cambodia which is a UN member, the SNC of which I am chairman truly recognizes the Tajikistan Republic as a sovereign and independent state with its own territorial integrity.

We firmly believe in the existing traditional relationship and multifaceted cooperation between our two countries and peoples for constant progress. It is with this sentiment that I would like to convey to Your Excellency best wishes for complete success in your historic mission at the helm of the Tajikistan Republic.

May the Tajikistan people enjoy happiness and prosperity. Your Excellency, please accept our sincere and high consideration.

Sihanouk Greets, Recognizes Uzbekistan

BK0501135492 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 5 Jan 92

["27 December message of greetings from Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, to Uzbek President His Excellency Islam Karimov"—read by announcer]

[Text] On behalf of the Cambodian people and Supreme National Council [SNC] and in my own name, I have the honor to convey to your excellency the warmest greetings on the historic occasion of the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, of which the Republic of Uzbekistan is a member.

On behalf of independent and united Cambodia, a member of the United Nations, the SNC of which I am chairman absolutely recognizes the Republic of Uzibekistan as a sovereign and independent state within its territorial integrity.

We firmly believe in the traditional relationship and multifarious cooperation between our two countries and peoples for constant progress.

It is with this sentiment that I would like to extend to your excellency best wishes for the complete achievement of your historic mission at the helm of the Republic of Uzibekistan.

May the Uzbek people achieve happiness and prosperity.

Your Excellency, please accept our sincerest and highest salutations.

Anticorruption Rally Held in Kompong Cham

BK2812035491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 Dec 91

["News on a large demonstration by the masses and people against corruption in Suong in Tbong Khmum District, Kompong Cham Province"]

[Text] Reports from Kompong Cham Province say that on 21 December 1991, 6,000 to 7,000 people and rubber plantation workers at Peam Cheang and Prey Totoeng staged a demonstration against corruption, the high price of rice, sky-high goods prices, and against the devaluation of the riel currency. No one uses the riel currency now.

Factions' Generals Visit 286th Division

BK0301130992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] In the spirit of the alliance forged between the Cambodian People's Party and FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], a delegation of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces headed by Lieutenant General Phuong Siphan, deputy chief of the General Staff, and Major Gen. Preap Tan, deputy chief of the General Political Department, and accompanied by Lt.Gen. Kruoch Yoeum, representative of the FUNCINPEC

General Staff, visited the 286th Division as part of the ritual of exchanging envoys between the two armies.

On that occasion, the two sides exchanged views on security and safety of the people living along Route 68 in strict implementation of the Paris agreement.

Colonel (So Sopheap), commander of the 286th Division, said that although the cease-fire agreement had gone into effect, the polpotists continued to encroach on a number of areas where the people were living peacefully. They especially laid mines along communication roads causing difficulties to normal traffic.

Talking on that occasion, Lt.Gen. Phuong Siphan pointed out the immediate tasks to be performed by the armies of the two parties to bring about peace, national reconciliation, and lasting happiness for the people and prosperity for the motherland.

Guidance for Army Celebration of National Day

BK0401053192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 3 Jan 92

["Guidance of the National Defense Ministry on marking the 13th anniversary of the State of Cambodia's National Day, 7 January 1979 - 7 January 1992"; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] With reference to the guidance dated 24 December 1991 of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Standing Committee and Central Committee on marking the 13th anniversary of the State of Cambodia's 7 January National Day,

In order to celebrate the 13th anniversary of the historic 7 January National Day in a solemn and happy atmosphere with a spirit of genuine national reconciliation and peace among the Cambodian People's Armed Forces, the General Political Department would like to provide the following guidance:

1. Requirement and essence: Make our cadres and combatants throughout the army recall the significance of the 7 January victory and realize the great social and national gains in 13 years and all kinds of sacrifices made by our army and people under the leadership of the CPP and the State of Cambodia's Government. Make our cadres and combatants in the army clearly realize the truth about the State of Cambodia's party and government, particularly continue to disseminate the political platform adopted by the extraordinary congress of the party and the sincere stance of the CPP in granting the role of head of state to Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and providing support for the samdech's candidacy in the forthcoming elections. Make cadres and combatants realize the spirit of the alliance between the CPP and FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] for the cause of peace and national reconciliation.

Based on the understanding of the above situation, all units should consolidate organizational and ideological structures, pay attention to solving and stabilizing the daily life of the army in order to properly implement tasks in the new phase and contribute to implementing the Paris peace agreement on Cambodia, aimed at further improving the all-round situation.

2. Organizational aspect and implementation: The Propaganda and Education Department should liaise with the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense to appoint and invite cadres and combatants to attend the meeting marking the 13th anniversary on 7 January 1992.

The Political Department is to act as the headquarters of the Defense Ministry in organizing programs to visit frontline units, centers for the disabled, families of fallen and disabled combatants, and various hospitals. All army units should appropriately implement slogans on taking care of tombs of fallen combatants. Wreaths should be laid, homage to fallen combatants paid, and visits to families of fallen and disabled combatants made.

Military regions, divisions, provincial and city army units, independent regiments, and schools should concretely organize meetings or talks in their respective units. Army units that have set up alliances with provincial and city ministries and services should make preparations to receive visiting alliance delegations and ensure security during the visits.

The Army Museum should have programs and be open for visitors from 1 to 10 January 1992. The army's propaganda department should have plans to widely disseminate—from the end of December 1991 to the celebration day—the significance of the anniversary celebration based on the essence outlined above.

After receiving this guidance, all those concerned should hastily pay attention to implementing it and achieving good results and report to the General Political Department through the Propaganda and Education Department before the end of January 1992 so the summing up report can be prepared and sent to the Propaganda and Education Commission of the Party Central Committee.

Slogans:

Long live the immortal 7 January National Day!

Long live the State of Cambodia!

Long live the CPP!

Long live the great national union!

Long live peace and national reconciliation!

Long live the Angkor motherland!

Indonesia

Dili Investigation Report Already 'Final'

BK0301114992 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1109 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 3 (OANA-ANTARA) - Foreign Minister Ali Alatas Friday stated the National Investigation Commission's report on the November 12 incident in Dili, submitted to President Suharto on December 26, was already final, and he hoped countries friendly to Indonesia would understand Indonesia's sincerity in handling the case.

In a New Year news conference, Alatas said though the commission (KPN)'s report was referred to as a "preliminary report" (in Bahasa Indonesia), it actually constituted an executive summary, containing final conclusions.

In English, it is not a "preliminary report", but an "advanced report", meaning therefore that its essentials would no longer be changed, except with the support of new data and details, he pointed out.

The report put the casualties in the incident at around 50 dead and more than 91 injured. Previous official announcement said the dead were 19 and the injured 91.

Acting on the report, President Suharto as commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces had decided to replace the 9th military (Udayana) Region Commander Major General Sintong Pandjaitan and the East Timor Operational Commander Brigadier General R.S. Warouw. They were considered as most responsible for the Dili incident.

Alatas noted positive reactions to the report from a number of countries. Asked why some other countries, including Japan, had not made any response, he replied: "maybe they are still in a holiday mood."

Besides, they might still want to wait and see the atmosphere after the issuance of the report and how the (Indonesian) Government acts on it.

Countries that had responded positively to the report include the United States, Australia, and the Netherlands.

Friendly countries, their governments, parliaments as well as non-governmental organizations [NGO] should understand the result that had optimally been achieved by the KPN, he said.

Nonetheless, he added that Indonesia had no illusions that its political enemies, particularly Portugal and certain NGOs abroad would not stop trying to corner Indonesia because of the incident.

Alatas admitted that the incident has made Indonesia's efforts in dealing with the East Timor issue backward. It is now more difficult and complicated to deal with the issue because it involves the human rights and political aspects which are interrelated, he said.

The problem also couples with the uncertain stance of Portugal as well as other events which have occured lately, the minister added.

Minister Alatas was of the view that the continuation of effort to deal with the issue will now mainly depend on the United Nations, particularly the new UN secretary general to take new initiatives to resume the talks between Indonesia and Portugal which has been halted due to the unilateral decision of Portugal to postpone the visit of its parliament to Indonesia.

To make the East Timor issue clear, Indonesia will make various optimal efforts to explain and place the Dili incident proportionally so that the world could have a correct understanding based on the realities chronologically.

These steps hopefully would counter the provocations conducted by Portugal either directly or indirectly to push Indonesia to the corner.

Replying to a question, he stressed as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, Indonesia would not take advantage of its position to achieve its own end, such as in settling the East Timor problem.

That the position gives influence to Indonesia cannot be denied, he said, adding that Indonesia intends to lead the movement for the interest of the whole members.

Alatas stressed that Indonesia opposed any external aid which is related to human rights and political issues.

Indonesia has explained clearly and firmly its perception on human rights on various occasions and international forums, he added.

Since January 1991, Indonesia has become a member of the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations.

But he said that after the November 12 in Dili, certain parties which were provoked by Portugal, international nongovernmental organizations, and Western press, made use of the incident to corner Indonesia in the international affairs.

House Speaker on Dili Incident

BK0601091592 Jakarta TVRI Television Network in Indonesian 0255 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Speech by House Speaker Kharis Suhud to open House of Representatives session in Jakarta—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Dili incident, which took place on 12 November 1991 and claimed several lives, has attracted the House of Representatives' attention, and the House's Commission I has discussed the incident with the Armed Forces commander. The House of Representatives deeply regrets the Dili incident. From the beginning, the House has made it clear that the incident was not a result of the Indonesian Government policy, which is based on Pancasila ideology.

This has been confirmed by a report prepared by the National Investigation Commission [KPN] which has made an objective and independent investigation, that is to say, the 12 November 1991 Dili incident, which had claimed several lives, was something definitely not attributed to any order or policy of the government or the Indonesian Armed Forces at the central or local level. The 12 November 1991 Dili incident was indeed a regretable disaster. The House of Representatives highly appreciates the government's decision to establish the KPN, whose members are derived from all walks of life, including some House members. The establishment of the KPN itself was prompted by the Indonesian Government's and people's desire to get a better picture of the situation. We would like to praise the way the KPN had carried out its investigation. The KPN has patiently and thoroughly listened to the views of all concerned parties and gathered information from all witnesses who are open-minded and objective. We appreciate the president's decision to take needed actions as a follow-up to the KPN's report. For the sake of upholding justice, all parties involved in the incident and those who masterminded it will face trial in accordance with existing laws of the Republic of Indonesia, which is based on the Pancasila ideology and the 1945 Constitution. We trust that more corrective and follow-up actions are needed.

It is regretable to note that there was an element of provocation planned beforehand by those opposed to East Timor's integration into Indonesia. The House also regrets the fact that some foreign groups have capitalized on the incident to discredit Indonesia. The House also regrets exaggerated reactions voiced by such foreign groups. While the government is trying to solve the issue thorugh legal means, the incident will become a valuable lesson to us. Therefore, let us all practice introspection and maintain our vigilance for the sake of our national unity and integrity. In this connection, all policies on East Timor should be reviewed to search out improper policies. Sociologists and anthropologists are invited to give their valuable contributions toward this end.

It is true that we must give special attention to development programs in this youngest province and the government has indeed done its duties through a series of policies it has initiated. Of course, the social aspect of the problem must receive greater attention. [passage omitted]

Equipped with the spirit contained in the preamble of the 1945 Constitution, Indonesia has played an active role in various international forums, such as efforts to solve the 13-year-old Cambodian problem. The problem ended with the signing of the Paris peace agrement on 23 October 1991. In this connection, the House hopes that the government continues to actively and thoroughly monitor the implementation of the Paris agreement so peace and security will indeed be achieved in the region and the Cambodian people can rebuild their country and forge ties with other countries. The end of the Cambodian problem means the beginning of a new era in the history of Southeast Asia, which will most likely encourage former Indochinese countries, namely Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, to join ASEAN.

Honorable members! The Nonaligned Movement summit will be held in Jakarta in September 1992. Being chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, Indonesia is required to play an important role in formulating policies on economic matters, national and international development, and public welfare, including fighting poverty and backwardness, all of which may become new areas of mutually beneficial cooperation. [passage omitted]

The House expresses its regret over the split in Yugoslavia, especially in view of the fact that that country is one of the members of the Nonaligned Movement. We note the European Community's initiative to solve the conflict in Yugoslavia. However, we also notice that several countries have accorded recognition to some Yugoslav states which have separated themselves from the central government. This has resulted in the speedy disintegration of that country. Therefore, we also hope that the coming Nonaligned Movement in September will offer a way to solve the conflict in Yugoslavia. However, it all depends on the Yugoslav people to determine their future.

Honorable members! On this happy occasion, the House would like to congratulate the Indonesian president for his recent successful tour of five countries. It is hoped that the tour will boost the domestic economy and enhance Indonesia's role in international forums. We want to underline the president's remarks at the opening of the Group of 15 summit meeting in Caracas that it is very important to revive the North-South dialogue, which is based on mutual needs, mutual benefit, and mutual responsibility. [passage omitted]

Honorable members! We also want to congratulate H.E. Paul Keating, the new Australian prime minister, who replaced former Prime Minister Bob Hawke. We hope that the new Australian leadership will bring fresh winds toward continued cordial relations between Indonesia and Australia, which are rather strained recently. This hope is normal in view of the fact that Australia is Indonesia's immediate neighbor to the south. The two countries share similar political and economic interests in the future.

The House also wants to congratulate new UN secretary general H.E. Butrus Ghali from Egypt and hopes that the United Nations will play a more active role in solving international problems and increasing cooperation among nations to achieve world peace.

Honorable members! One unexpected and swift event was the dissolution of the Soviet Union as a superpower at the end of 1991. As a replacement, a Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] was born and its 11 members declared their equal status. The political change in that region has certainly changed the international political scenario with the emergence of a new geopolitical configuration. We hope that the CIS will be able to solve their important problems, including the economic problems and supervision of nuclear weapons. [passage omitted]

Ministry Lodges Protest With Australian Envoy

BK0301114092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1057 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 3 (OANA-ANTARA)—The Indonesian Foreign Ministry has summoned Australian Ambassador Philip Flood to lodge a strong protest over a demonstration taking place in front of the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra on Thursday (January 2).

The Foreign Ministry Friday condemned the actions committed by the demonstrators and called on the Australian Government to prevent the recurrence of such an incident.

The Indonesian Embassy in Canberra reported that there was a demonstration in front of the embassy on January 2 during which some of the demostrators pelted three staffers of the embassy with stones when they left the office, causing damage to their official cars.

According to the Vienna Convention Article 22 and 25 regarding diplomatic relations, the Australian Government is reponsible to provide protection to foreign embassies and assure that foreign representative offices or embassies can smoothly carry out their duties without any disturbances.

In this connection, the Indonesian Foreign Ministry has summoned Flood and lodged a strong protest from the Indonesian Government, calling for an assurance from Australia that similar incident will not be repeated in the future.

Islamic Groups Support Protest

BK0501061692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0511 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 5 (ANTARA)—Two leading Islamic Organizations—Muhammadiyah and Nahdlatul Ulama—have expressed support for the strong protest lodged by the Indonesian Government against Australia for failing to protect Indonesian diplomats from the attack of demonstrators in the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra on January 2.

Former Chairman of the Muhammadiyah Socio-Religious Organisation Lukman Harun, concurrently chairman of the Islamic Solidarity Committee told ANTARA here on Saturday that Australia should understand the efforts made by Jakarta to handle the November 12 incident in Dili, East Timor.

Lukman said Australia should also pay respect to the sovereignty of another country (Indonesia).

Many Australians did not know much about East Timor, Lukman said, adding some Australians sometimes had an attitude that is "more Western than the Westerners." Such a demontration never occurred in the West, Lukman asserted.

Lukman said he was surprised why Australians frequently interfered in the internal affairs of Indonesia, where as "in fact we never meddle in their internal affairs."

Lukman further said Australia also had human right-related problems. On one hand, Australia wanted to promote human rights, while on the other it paid no proper attention to the human rights of the aborigines.

"They should pay respect to the political rights of the Indonesian Government," Lukman added.

Lukman said the Australian press, which he described as a "market press" was overacting.

In this connection, Khalid Mawardi, chairman of the Nahdlatul Ulama Socio-Religious Organisation, called on the Indonesian press to help counter the Australian press, which he said had shown a "racial superiority complex" towards Indonesia.

The Indonesian Embassy had earlier said that the demonstrators had thrown stones at the cars of its three staffers as they were about to go home. The incident caused damage to the cars.

In line with the incident, the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday critized the demonstrators and demanded Canberra to prevent the recurrence of the incident.

On Friday, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas summoned Australian ambassador to Indonesia Philip Flood to convey Indonesia's strong protest to the Australian Government.

"The protest lodged by the Indonesian Government is reasonable, polite and still within diplomatic limit. It is still controlable and proportional," Khalid Mawardi said. "The act taken by the demonstrators is obviously outside the bounds of properness," Khalid added.

Khalid further said the local police officers who did not act seriously to prevent the demonstration indicated that the demonstration had seemingly been "arranged" previously.

Philippines

Manglapus on Ramifications of U.S. Bases Pullout

HK0601031092 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 6 Jan 92 p 16

[By Jose G. Ebro]

[Text] The Philippines' rejection of the U.S. military presence is making it the odd man out in the region, Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus indicated in a televised interview over the weekend.

The foreign secretary pointed out that while the Philippines was getting rid of the Americans, other countries in the reigon were inviting them in.

The U.S. pullout, he said, has "ramifications for our economy our psyche and... security in the region," he said on Channel 4's "Coast to Coast" program.

Expressing disappointment over the Senate's rejection of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Treaty of Friendship, Security and Cooperation and subsequent inability to reach agreement on a three-year withdrawal arrangement which would have eased the dislocation, Mr. Manglapus remarked: "We're giving up economic benefits and the rest of the region is taking them in."

Besides the annual budgetary support and military assistance components of bases compensation, the U.S. military has been providing employment for some 25,000 people at Subic and infuses an additional $500 million a year into the economy through the procurement of local goods and services.

In Singapore, last Saturday, U.S. President George Bush and Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong announced an "agreement in principle" for the transfer of a Subic-based unit to the island republic.

The U.S. 7th Fleet's Command Task Force 73 is a logistics and resupply unit. Some 200 men are to be permanently based in Singapore. "That is only a small fraction of the number of servicemen the U.S. has in Subic (about 6,000 to date), but the symbolism of the move is the main thing," a Philippine diplomat told BUSINESS WORLD.

U.S. officials said Mr. Bush made the move to calm regional fears that a U.S. withdrawal from the region would leave a dangerous power vacuum.

"The original thinking here was that a removal of the U.S. presence would be taken by the rest of the region as an assertion of our independence of the U.S.," Mr. Manglapus said. "That has not materialized. The Senate's action (rejecting the treaty) has not been appreciated by our neighbors."

"Singapore, of course, announced their basing arrangement some time back, even before all this. But now, we understand that the Thais are talking about restoring their basing arrangements with the U.S. Malaysia has offered the U.S. Navy use of their bay [sentence as published] ...Brunei has said their presence would be welcome and even Indonesia has offered the U.S. use of what would be the equivalent of the Crow Valley training range," he said.

A foreign affairs source said Mr. Manglapus found Indonesia's offer particularly galling because "he recalled that (Indonesian President) Suharto had lectured him for almost an hour on resilience... in the context of the region doing without a foreign military presence."

Manila Welcomes Transfer of U.S. Forces

HK0601012592 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] The Philippines has welcomed Washington's decision to transfer its forces to Singapore, in view of its withdrawal from Subic Naval Base on 31 December 1992.

Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon stressed that the United States has the right to freely look for a place to which it can move its forces, without the country's interference. Drilon said this is a smart move by the United States in order to reduce its financial problems. For the country's part, he said that we have made a decision as a free country and the United States has the right to make their own decisions as well.

The U.S. decision to transfer its forces to Singapore from Subic was reached after the two parties failed to forge an agreement for the continued stay of the American forces in Subic.

Drilon clarified that the United States is cutting down its forces not only in the Philippines but also in other countries around the world due to the budget deficit.

Singapore Seeks Closer Bilateral Military Ties

HK0601032592 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 6 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] Singapore is sending this week a high-level defense delegation to Manila to seek a much closer bilateral military agreement between the two Asean countries following the early dpearture of American forces in the Philippines.

Defense Minister Yeo Ning Hong will lead a five-man defense and armed forces delegation to discuss with their counterparts ways to strengthen regional security and forge closer military cooperation between both countries.

Sources at the Department of Foreign Affairs said the Singapore delegation was scheduled to arrive in Manila on Wednesday for a three-day visit.

The Singaporean visit to the Philippines came less than a week after U.S. President George Bush secured an arrangement with the Singaporean government to take in U.S. military forces that would be displaced from the Philippines.

The Philippine government gave the Americans until the end of 1992 to withdraw from their largest overseas naval facility in Subic, after both countries failed to reach an agreement for a three-year withdrawal.

Other delegation members are Brig. Gen. Michael Teo Eng Cheng, the Royal Singaporean Air Force chief; Teo Ming Kian, the defense ministry's second permanent secretary; Col. Chen Chin Chi, the assistant chief of general staff for personnel and training; and Mohamad Maidin Bin Packer Mon, parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Information and Arts.

The Singaporean officials might discuss with their counterparts more cooperation in training and education, intelligence exchange and a proposal to jointly build and develop an air gunnery range in Palawan to replace Pinatubo-devastated Crow Valley air gunnery facilities in Central Luzon.

The Singaporeans might also discuss several regional security issues, including continued U.S. military presence in the region.

Abadia, Drilon Discuss 1992 Agendas

HK0301115192 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in English 1400 GMT 1 Jan 92

[Studio interview with General Lisandro Abadia and Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon by Apa Ongpin and Francis Pangilinan on 1 January; from the President's Hour program—live or recorded; italicized passages in Tagalog]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Ongpin] First of all, we'd like to get a one on one talk with perhaps one of the most important players in our country's life, which is of course the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP], General Lisandro Abadia.

So, General Abadia, what are you beginning to do now for 1992? Is the elections a major event for which the military must be prepared or is it other things?

[Abadia] Well, we shall involve in counterinsurgency. But we have started planning for the elections in 1992. So, we should not be disrupted from our main activities—counterinsurgency.

[Ongpin] Now, let me ask you about counterinsurgency. I mean, over 1991 we've seen startling changes in Russia, the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe leading to the collapse of the communist ideology. But the Filipino Communists and the New People's Army [NPA] continue to fight on in support of this particular cause. Are they not weakened by these international events? Has the rank and file not lost hope in this cause?

[Abadia] Of course, we cannot really [word indistinct] often. But the leaders of the movement are still hanging on and trying to adjust and innovate. And they are saying they are not communist, they are socialist. So the thrust of campaign strategy in 1992 will be to inform our brother Filipinos in the barangays of the bankruptcy of the communist ideology. And we are going to use a lot of media—we are going to use the vernacular—radio, comics, (word indistinct); so that the people in the barangay will know that its a lost cause.

[Ongpin] Do you perceive that the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] will change name considering that it is a somewhat unfortunate name which they are going claim that they are socialist not communist?

[Abadia] I don't know, but they have been using CPP-NPA-National Democratic Front. Mainly in 1992.... [Abadia changes thought] Come to think....

[Pangilinan,interrupting] General, I have one question: Your predecessors from the AFP have in the past claimed—I think it was in 1992—that the insurgency would be defeated by the year 1992. What are the projections now?

[Abadia] Well, the [word indistinct] we are using now is the government and the AFP will achieve strategic control by the end of 1992.

[Pangilinan] In minimum terms, what does that mean?

[Abadia] Well, meaning that [they] will be less of a political problem but more of a law enforcement problem. I mean, they have been so marginalized that, hopefully, we can turn over the operations to the Philippine National Police [PNP] and the Armed Forces will sit back or go back and train as a convention force and do what [words indistinct], to defend the territory and protect the country.

[Ongpin] With this territory, do you expect to regain all of the territory currently under rebel control or leftist control within 1992?

[Abadia] No, let me put it this way: There is no territory that is absolutely under the control of the NPA. And so.... [Abadia changes thought] The guerrilla force moves from one place to another; but nobody—the guerrillas or the CPP-NPA yet cannot claim that they are in control of a part of the country.

[Pangilinan] General, time and time again the Armed Forces have, well, somehow announced or stated that the problem of the insurgency will not be solved purely by military means. There is a socioeconomic aspect to it. The previous year, 1991, was a year of several calamities affecting our economy, affecting the lives of our people. Has this somehow, in a way, affected the approach of the military, of the Armed Forces, in terms of resolving the conflict?

[Abadia] You are correct. There is no such thing as a military solution to the problem. Its.... [Abadia changes thought] We must have a comprehensive solution to the problem, which is for itself political, economic, and social. In terms of percentages, maybe you can say that the military will only address some 25 percent of the problem. But, it is important that we secure the area so that economic development can prosper. Because economic development cannot prosper if the area is under the influence, maybe not under the control of the CPP.

[Pangilinan] For example, General, in areas like the Pinatubo-affected areas where livelihood and employment is really gone down—in Ormoc, in the earthquake affected areas. This could be, in a sense, fertile ground for unrest. Has this been assessed by the Armed Forces and how has it made some adjustments in this area?

[Abadia] You're correct. We're watching developments in Central Luzon, particularly in the areas in Pampanga. But I think the government is doing a lot in trying to somehow get into the vacuum in terms of economic opportunities for our people. But this is important, as I said, that even without economic development, that area must be clear of enemy influence.

[Pangilinan] Can you comment on one statement—that Central Luzon is supposedly the seat or has been a hot-bed of rebels, you know, from the time of the Hukbalahap [Forces Against the Japanese] to the time, and like.... [Pangilinan changes thought] And right now, well, its been affected terribly by the Mount Pinatubo. How do you see this in terms of the insurgency problem?

[Abadia] As I said, we are watching because insurgency breeds on poverty. And as I said, the government understands this fully well. That's why a lot of development efforts are poured into this—how many millions of [Philippine] pesos and more are coming. And hopefully, we can preempt any backsliding of the status of the peace and order there.

[Ongpin] I'm interested in what you said about the Army sort of hoping, well, to devolve this into a law enforcement problem later on. When the Army, as you say, will sit back and sort of concentrate on training to defend the country, there are several priorities, I suppose. One of them is going to be learning to defend the country without the help of the United States....

[Abadia, interrupting] That's right.

[Ongpin, continuing] ...which could be leaving until some time [as heard]. What are the major [word indistinct], I guess; the major directions that you will take since you will be the chief of staff of the first Filipino Armed Forces not to have the Americans there?

[Abadia] We must modernize, particularly our Navy and our Air Force. We must be able to protect our skies. We cannot depend anymore on the dole-outs of the U.S. Air Force or the ships of the U.S. Navy. And that's why it is imperative and very crucial that we modernize our Armed Forces.

[Ongpin] Now, in view of the economic situation where.... [Ongpin changes thought] Do you expect to get enough funds to do this and if you don't, what are you going to do?

[Abadia] Well, I have, as a matter of fact, gotten a substantial amount for modernization from our Congress in 1992. Last year, 1991, I was given PP [Philippine pesos] 400 million and that is good for a partial modernization of the Navy. I am looking at another PP500 million for 1992.

[Ongpin] How much does a twin set of patrol boats cost?

[Abadia] The Fox Trot craft with missiles would cost something like $60 million, and that's the craft of the modernization efforts.

[Ongpin] $60 million at PP400 million isn't much.

[Abadia] Well, we have down payment, you know. And we have a ten year amortization.

[Pangilinan] General, how would you view this situation wherein there is a need to modernize, there is a need for funding for the Armed Forces, and at the same time, there are sectors who claim or who observe that we are not getting enough in health, we are not getting enough in education. How would you respond to these comments?

[Abadia] We go through the usual bread and guns game, you know. But really, the Philippines is the lowest in defense spending compared to other ASEAN countries, the Asia-Pacific region. For example, we are only spending two percent of the GNP for defense. In other countries, they are spending three, four, five percent of GNP. So we are aware of the need of the government also to spend for social services. But, for a country to be worth its post, so to speak, in terms of its ability to defend itself, then it is a decision that must be taken by our government.

[Pangilinan] I would like to go back to the point raised earlier by Apa [Ongpin] regarding the effect or impact of the eventual exit of the Americans. Would you agree to this point raised before by some sectors that we were too dependent on American support and as such, our own Army, our own Armed Forces, were not able to modernize?

[Abadia] Well, partly correct. But the main reason why we were not able to modernize was because we had our own internal problem and we had to look into our insurgency problem and we had to buy equipment suited for guerrilla warfare or insurgency. And so the money had been pooled towards, you know....

[Pangilinan, interrupting] That's the infantry staff, isn't it?

[Abadia] Infantry staff or ground staff. To the detriment of the upgrading or modernization of the Air Force and the Navy.

[Pangilinan] What about the plight of the infantry? I'm interested in the sort of per capita aspect of this thing. Per capita we are not spending a huge amount of GNP on defense, but we have a disproportionately large Armed Forces. I mean, that [word indistinct] suppose you start off the PC [Philippine Constabulary] into the police. But it seems to me, for what we are spending, we have a lot soldiers. Are they not going to be improved? Are they not going to get to enjoy a decent standard of living?

[Abadia] Well we have to realize that we have a population of 63 million and an Armed Forces strength of 110,000 and it is really not that much. We are talking, for example, Thailand—without any problem in insurgency—has an Army of 200,000.

[Ongpin] Yes, but I was talking about not in relation to population but in relation to what you are spending for the soldiers. [Word indistinct] what is our expenditures per pay per soldier for their benefits, for their living conveniences, which is behind?

[Abadia] Yes you are correct. But there must be [words indistinct]. We have to solve the [word indistinct] problem and then probably reduced so that we can have the soldier [words indistinct] have more.

[Ongpin] Can you further [word indistinct] from the Armed Forces?

[Abadia] When we shall have solved the insurgency problem we have no choice but to reduce.

[Ongpin] Is there any [word indistinct] for fiscal [words indistinct] cutting back on budget?

[Pangilinan] [passage indistinct] General, perhaps one of the reasons why is the insurgency has been, well, has not been completely overrun, as the Armed Forces would like to emphasize. [Words indistinct] unity of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. What is the status of the right wing threat, the underground rebels, the rebel soldiers, and the reason for [words indistinct] around two weeks ago—pronouncement of Senator Enrile that a coup would proceed or follow if the elections are fraudulent? What is the task now of the coup plotters?

[Abadia] The coup plotters have been greatly marginalized. There are 10 or less of them now in the underground. They used to have—there used to be 100 in the underground. So, I think they do not have the capability anymore to mount a coup. They can still do some [words indistinct] but this is one thing I discussed with Gringo Honasan and said they cannot do anything substantial [words indistinct] do our country any good. I think Gringo will not go into terrorism.

[Pangilinan] What about the point or pronouncement of the rebels that they have people underground and the same time above ground who are enlisted men?

[Abadia] I really do not know about that.

[Pangilinan] *And regarding talks on the elections* there was a report, I remember reading a report—Senator Angara [word indistinct] the amount of firearms were able to enter the country. The loose firearms were enough to arm the regular Army and this is also being confirmed by Commissioner Yorac. This serves to print a picture of shooting when election time comes. Would you like to respond, sir?

[Abadia] The biggest threat to the Army is still the NPA. I do not think that there is any private armed group that can challenge the PNP and the Armed Forces.

[Ongpin] Now I was wondering about these loose firearms, a lot of the loose firearms [word indistinct] originally came after World War II. When the end of World War II [word indistinct] around, now that is 50 years later, almost, and you know some of these [words indistinct] obsolete a long time ago but they [word indistinct] breaking down. If you are not some kind of [word indistinct], are these arms [word indistinct] been misplaced by illegal means?

[Abadia] I will be surprised how our brothers in the South can maintain their firearms. [words indistinct]

[Ongpin] [words indistinct]

[Abadia] We are talking of World War II firearms.

[Ongpin] [words indistinct]

[Abadia] [word indistinct] buried somewhere

[Pangilinan] *What about regarding the report of Senator Angara* that there has been an influx of smuggled arms dumping? Is there any [words indistinct] previous [word indistinct] during the election thereby?

[Abadia interrupting] *As I said a while ago, there are no groups that can [words indistinct]* a small group long enough to challenge the Armed Forces or the PNP.

[Ongpin] In the election specifically, what do you feel [words indistinct]?

[Abadia] [words indistinct] The Armed Forces in the Philippines will be neutral, nonpartisan in the 1992 election, and we are going to [words indistinct] and therefore we will only follow the dictate of the Commission of Election.

[Ongpin] [words indistinct]

[Abadia] [words indistinct] I have assured Chairman Monsod that you can count on the Armed Forces to have in whatever ways we can for the smooth conduct of election

[Pangilinan] I like to go back, General, to point about the 10 renegade soldiers who are still on the loose. Do you have a time frame as to when will you be able to capture them or do you intend to capture them at all?

[Abadia] I do not want to go into terms. You asked before I was put to task and my statement which was stated in depth that I will resign if I will not capture Honasan. But, anyway, the media took the [words indistinct]. But I think the more accurate it will be [words indistinct] the whole Armed Forces would like to put this thing behind.

[Pangilinan] One last point about the Honasan [word indistinct]. I remember reading in the newspaper Secretary De Villa saying that some military officers are actually assisting in his—can you comment on this one?

[Abadia] No. As of now we do not have—we cannot tell the [word indistinct]. We cannot confirm that—all our intelligence agency cannot confirm that.

[Ongpin] One of the things that we are talking about is transition. When the civilian government go into a transition, how that the military leadership then interface with the new regime? Is this an automatic thing or are there many things to be worked out?

[Abadia] I think it is a professional thing. Automatically, when we have a new president, then he is going to be our commander in chief. Now the electoral code says that there is one month transition. Okay, from May up to June for the transition and then there will still be a formal turnover of power in June.

[Pangilinan] Perhaps some people would like to be clarified with the [words indistinct] statements attributed to you, but I would think as you have said that were misquoted, I cannot recall about the military intervening if the elections are fraudulent.

[Abadia] [Word indistinct] I said that if there is confusion, there is some—near anarchic situation, the Armed Forces will come in to restore order. Now [word indistinct] the paper stated, was the Armed Forces will take over....

[Pangilinan interrupting] ...will come in.

[Abadia] Will come in or take over. There is a lot of difference in restoring order and coming in to takeover. [passage omitted]

[Ongpin] Secretary Drilon, first of all, you know, winding up these several months, there are several programs which I suppose are imperative for you to get done before the president's term ends. What are these particular programs or these priority areas?

[Drilon] Well, the most critical, Apa, is the matter of the implementation of the local government code. As you recall, last October the president signed the local government code and this is, I would like to think, a major legacy that she will leave to the Filipino people because she came into power on people empowerment and that has been the consistent thing in this administration. And the implementation of the local government code is a manifestation of that policy.

As chairman of the Oversight Committee, it is the indigenous [word indistinct] on me and on the president to make sure that by June 30 the basic structure for the successful implementation of this law, which would devolve tremendous power and tremendous resources to our local government sources, would be in place. We would have to go through the training of our local government officials. And the task is doubly difficult because we are training of local officials in the next several months and we do not know whether these are the same executives who will be taking over on July 1.

[Ongpin, interrupting] In view of the elections?

[Drilon] In view of the elections this coming May.

[Ongpin] That's a big problem. Don't you perceive a big problem in [word indistinct] code? I mean, the country's bureaucracy and government apparatus is just not prepared for it.

[Drilon] Well, yes. But you have to start somewhere. And I am very pleased with the attitude taken, for example, by the Department of Agriculture under Secretary Senen Bacani when the bureaucracy in the department, under the leadership of Secretary Bacani, has given to support on the Oversight Committee in terms of the successful implementation of the devolution under the local government code.

First, what I have to reassure, assure and reassure, our bureaucracy is that there will be no displacement of any employee as a result of the devolution that will be taking place. There were lots of apprehensions on the part of our civil servants that, as a result of the implementation of code, they can be dismissed. We have made sure that in the rules, nobody will be dismissed as a result of the reorganization, devolution that will happen.

The second major program, Apa, is that the executive branch must support the Commission on Elections [Comelec] in its mandate to have an honest, orderly and peaceful elections in 1992. Because this is very critical for the survival of our democracy in this country. If the people perceive the elections to be flawed, then they may lose their faith in the democratic process, and it is very critical. Of all the things, we support the Comelec to achieve its mandate of having a peaceful elections so that we can have a peaceful transition of power, which is the third program which we will be looking at and implementing in the next six months.

Preparing for the next administration, a peaceful transition of power. You must remember that the last time that there was a peaceful transfer of power was in 1965. That was over 25 years ago. And to be honest, there are not as many people who had experienced insofar as the smooth transfer of power is concerned. And again, that is essential to our political stability.

So these are the three major areas that I can immediately identify for our listening audience or viewing audience, Apa, as the major areas of concentration that we have for the last six months.

[Pangilinan] I'd like to go back, Mr. Secretary, to your second point. I think that around two or three weeks ago Secretary, rather, Senator Enrile talked about the possibility of a coup if there is fraud and terrorism that would characterize the elections.

[Ongpin] I think that was two or three days ago.

[Pangilinan] What are your views on this matter?

[Drilon] You know, I think that this kind of talk generates its own power. And I think we should look forward to an honest election. We should.... [Drilon changes thought] I don't think our people will allow that. The people have learned what a flawed election can mean. People would be vigilant. I don't agree with Senator Enrile that something untoward will happen because I am sure that the entire Filipino nation will be on its feet because this involves our future—that we just work together so that there will be orderly elections. [passage omitted]

Government Drops Opposition on Marcos' Passport

HK2312101091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0955 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Text] Manila, Dec 23 (AFP)—The Philippine government will grant a passport to Imelda Marcos, a senior official said here Monday as the former first lady was spared from arrest in time to enjoy Christmas with her newly reunited family.

Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, the government's chief lawyer, said he would no longer pursue an appeal against a trial court order to issue a passport to the widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Chavez said the issue had been "overtaken by events" and said Marcos may now apply to recover her passport, which was nullified by Manila after her family was chased out of the country by a popular revolt in 1986.

But Marcos, who flew home from U.S. exile last month with a one-way travel document to face criminal charges, will have little use for a new passport.

An immigration "hold order" prevents her from leaving the country until she is acquitted—or serves sentence if convicted.

State prosecutors meanwhile filed eight more criminal charges against Marcos in court, bringing to 24 the total she is facing in various tribunals. She is accused of graft, tax evasion and conflict of interest.

The new charges stemmed from allegations that Marcos maintained illegal bank accounts in Switzerland, the United States and Britain, they said.

Earlier Monday, Marcos formally surrendered to officials of an anti-graft court and was quickly freed on bail to spend Christmas with her family, who have followed her home over the past few weeks.

"I am confident we will win because the truth will prevail," Marcos, who filed 90,000 pesos (3,334 dollars) in bail on Friday to avoid arrest on six counts of graft, told journalists after presenting herself to court officials.

The 63-year-old widow of deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos, clad in a purple dress and decked out in gold and diamonds, flashed a "V" for victory sign after being fingerprinted by clerk of court Dolores Balajadia on five of the charges.

An aide said Marcos moaned at the Sandiganbayan graft court after her fingers were dipped in a violet ink pad: "Oh, she dirtied up my hands."

But after appearing before another branch of the court for the remaining charge, she beamed as admirers mobbed her in the hallway. Some sought her autograph, and a security guard asked for a picture. She obliged them all.

Marcos, who returned from six years of exile last month, said she expected to enjoy the holidays after her three children and five grandchildren returned from exile, uniting the family for the first time since a popular revolt sent them fleeing to Hawaii in 1986.

President Corazon Aquino's government, accusing the Marcoses of plundering the country of billions of dollars over 20 years, has initiated 80 cases against the family, but only the 13 have been elevated to court.

Thailand

Future of Two Burmese Dissidents Discussed

BK0301022792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] A pro-democracy Burmese student leader and a female student arrested last week will be deported to Burma after being fined 2,800 baht each for illegally entering Thailand.

Dr Thi Ha, chairman of the Overseas National Students' Organisations of Burma (ONSOB), and the student, Mimi Nai, arrested on Thurdsday last week, are expected to be deported to Burma through Mae Sot District of Tak Province.

Dr Thi Ha is a prominent activist of the ONSOB which has played a key role in the struggle to return democracy to Burma.

The pair were arrested with four male students at an apartment in Soi Suanluang, Klong Tan. Their four colleagues, who have no money to pay fines, will be detained for 40 days before being deported to Burma.

Dr Thi Ha and the other dissident students face arrest by the Burmese authorities.

Deputy Interior Permanent Secretary Chairwat Hutacharoen, who is in charge of security affairs, said the ministry is still strictly enforcing its policy to control Burmese students.

Students will be sent to live at a centre under construction in Tambon Wang Manao of Pak Tho District, Ratburi Province, scheduled to be completed by March.

Burmese students have been told to register with the authorities by mid January or face arrest for illegal entry, he said.

The ministry's policy is in line with a Cabinet decision that the students should live in the same place.

The center is a former Border Patrol Police camp, and the Government has allocated 16 million baht for renovations. The Government will also allocate 20 million baht a year to feed the students, Mr Chairwat said.

Fewer than 2,500 Burmese students live in Thailand, about 500 of them in Bangkok and 110 at the Bang Khen Detention Centre. The remaining 2,000 are along the Thai-Burmese border.

The 2,500 do not include the 40,000 Karen, Mon, and Shan ethnic groups from Burma now living near the Thai border.

Ministry Not To Deport Students

BK0401013392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] Thailand will not deport the two Burmese student leaders arrested last week, Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said yesterday.

The Thai Government will not deport the Burmese students although their status remains that of illegal immigrants, the spokesman said.

Dr Thi Ha, chairman of the Overseas National Students' Organization of Burma, and student activist Ms Mimi Nai were arrested last Thursday together with four other students at an apartment in Bangkok on charges of illegal entry.

"Burmese students, including these two, can never be deported. Under the law they are to be interrogated and prosecuted but not deported," Mr Sakthip said.

Police on Alert Over Karen-Burmese Fighting

BK0401011992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] Tak—Thai Border Patrol Police [BPP] have been placed on full alert following bitter fighting between Burmese troops and Karen rebels over the past few days. BPP units at three Thai border villages in Umphang District were ordered to be prepared for possible intrusions of Burmese troops who have been surrounded by armed Karen rebels following five days of fighting, border sources said.

All Burmese soldiers who intrude on Thai territory to escape the Karen must be disarmed, said sources quoting the BPP order to its border units.

The Karen have reinforced their combat forces at the border village of Kyaw Hta about seven kilometres from the Thai border in a bid to recapture a key position which was been seized by Burmese Government troops on New Year's eve.

Some 800 Burmese soldiers overran the village on December 31.

Another 500 Burmese troops also seized two other Karen villages at Ban Mai and Pethay in the same area at around the same time.

The Burmese attacks were met by fierce resistance from the Karen rebels who have since regrouped and planned to recapture the lost bases.

The sources said Burmese army casualties were high while the Karen lost 17 killed in action.

The Karen, after four days of fighting, yesterday managed to surround part of the Burmese force, cutting off their supply route.

The sources said that the BPP had also ordered all of its armoured units on standby.

Prospects for Suchinda's SRV Visit Viewed

BK0601011792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Jan 92 p A1

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun arrives here today for a two-day visit in an effort to establish a "consultative" security dialogue with top Vietnamese military leaders to ease decades of mistrust between the two countries.

An informed source said Suchinda will exhange views with the Vietnamese leaders on wide-ranging issues, including the post-Cold War situation, the Cambodian peace settlement, peace and security in the region as well as bilateral security issues.

During his stay in Hanoi, Suchinda will meet Prime minister Vo Van Kiet, Defence Minister Doan Khue and former Defence Minister Le Duc Anh, who is currently the No. 2 ranking politburo member and has responsibility for military and foreign affairs.

When Suchinda talks to Anh and Khue at separate meetings tomorrow, the source said, he would discuss mutual security concerns and ways and means to strengthen security relations between the two countries.

The source said Thailand and Vietnam would need a channel of communication on security-related issues which "can keep each other informed" to avoid any possible conflict or misunderstanding in the future.

In the past, issues such as violation of territorial waters and smuggling had caused strains in bilateral ties, said the source who asked not to be identified.

"They can increase cooperation in these fields, including the exchange of intelligence," the source said without elaborating.

Suchinda will be accompanied by about 10 generals, including three chiefs of staff of the Thai armed forces. The source said it will be the first time that important key armed forces leaders will be in Vietnam for such bilateral talks.

"If all goes well, the two sides could adopt preventive measures that would increase mutual confidence and trust in the area of security," the source said.

The deputy chairman of the National Peacekeeping Council will also lay a wreath at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and visit the house of the late Vietnamese leader, who used to stay in Thailand in the 1920's when he formed the Indochinese Communist Party.

Prior to this visit, Suchinda had requested for a trip to Cam Ranh Bay, which is a naval base in southern Vietnam. So far, Vietnam has not yet responded. The Thai military has said Cam Ranh Bay and its military facilities are a threat to Thailand.

Suchinda's trip will be followed by a visit by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun. Anan is scheduled to arrive here on Jan 15 for a three-day stay.

Both countries last year agreed to exchange military attaches after a series of visits by the military leaders of the two countries.

Suchinda, who is leading a 20-member delegation, will leave for Ho Chi Minh City tomorrow afternoon for a one-night stop-over before returning to Bangkok on Wednesday.

Suchinda Leaves for SRV, Comments on Taxes

BK0601070592 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] General Suchinda Khraprayun, supreme commander and Army commander in chief, and a delegation of senior military officers, departed from the Air Force Headquarters Airport this morning for an official visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the Vietnamese Government. Before his departure, General Suchinda said the visit is being made at the invitation of Vietnam and that there will not be any discussion on military affairs. However, he will meet with Vietnamese leaders from various fields.

Asked for his opinion on comments that the prices for the military's weapon purchase have been unrealistically high, he said those people should point out which item is expensive and on what basis. The supreme commander said prices are different because of the different equipment installed in the weapons. So, we have to see what equipment the weapons need. Nobody will buy goods which are too expensive. However, he reiterated the purchase was made in accordance with standard prices.

Asked about the current political situation, the supreme commander said that there is nothing to worry about because there will be a general election soon. Asked about the increase in commodity prices following the introduction of value added tax [VAT] system, he said that this was normal at the start. Several other countries also faced such a problem when the VAT system was introduced in their countries. The government is now trying to solve the problem.

Lao President Arrives for Visit as Royal Guest

BK0601103892 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1000 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Report on Arrival of Kaysone Phomvihan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic President—recorded]

[Excerpts] The friendship between Thailand and Laos further strengthens today by the visit of Kaysone Phomvihan, the president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and his wife as guests of his majesty the king. The king and the crown prince proceeded to the special aircraft which carried the LPDR president to welcome him to Thailand. Also present were Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and senior Thai military leaders.

The king led the LPDR president to a podium to review the combined honor guards while a band played the Lao and then Thai national anthems. [passage omitted on Kaysone's brief biography]

After the reception at the airport of the Air Force Headquarters, about 1510 the LPDR president will travel to receive the key to Bangkok city from the Bangkok Metropolis Administration governor.

Commentary Welcomes Visit, Ties

BK0601102392 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 6 Jan 92

["News in Perspective" feature]

[Text] Relationship between Thailand and the Lao People's Democratic Republic today has remarkably improved after periodic tensions between the two countries in the past. Both countries have been close neighbors with ethnic and cultural links for centuries. Their people also speak virtually the same language. Only the Mekong River separates the two sister states from each other.

The visit to Thailand by Lao President Kaysone Phomvihan during 6 to 15 January will bring people from both nations even closer together. This will be the first visit to Thailand as the Lao President by Mr. Kaysone. He paid a visit to Thailand in 1989 as the Lao prime minister. Aged 71 years, Mr. Kaysone was born in Savannakhet city in Laos. He was educated in a university in Hanoi for a certain period before joining a resistance group who fought against the Japanese colonialists. In 1942, he played a leading role fighting for Laotian dependence from France and Japan.

Mr. Kaysone has contributed to the promotion of Thai-Lao relations since Laos turned into a socialist state in 1975. During the visit to Thailand, President Kaysone will be conferred an honorary doctorate degree in political science from Thammasat University. He will be the 18th foreign head of state to receive such an honorary doctorate from Thammasat.

Laos plans to join the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, which now groups the Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. The government of Laos early expressed an intention to sign the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, which is considered by ASEAN as a necessary first step for a country to join ASEAN. Thailand and Laos could join hands in playing a stronger role to promote regional security and prosperity if Laos becomes an ASEAN member.

One of the major historic events marking another step towards closer cooperation between the two countries during the past year was the inauguration of contruction of the fist bridge across the Mekong River linking Thailand's Nong Khai Province and Laos' capital city of Vientiane. The Friendship Bridge funded by the Australian Government is scheduled to be completed by mid-1994. When completed, the bridge will facilitate greatly and gradually improve access between Thailand and Laos. It will not only benefit economic development of the two neighboring countries but will also serve as one of the foundations for a new era of peace in the region.

To prevent possible border problems that may affect bilateral relations, military leaders of the two sides held the first Thai-Lao border peace-keeping committee meeting in Bangkok late last month. The two countries have agreed to exchange news and information through the mechanism to be set up along their common border. They also agreed to prevent ethnic groups from using their territory to stage aggressive action against each other. Moreover, both sides will enhance coordination in the suppression of drug trafficking and the prevention of illegal entry.

Last year, Thailand offered 30 scholarships to Lao students to study for bachelor's and master's degrees in Thailand, including a number of scholarships for observation tours here.

Improved relations between Thailand and Laos will pave way for wider cooperation in the future, thus benefiting the people of both countries. The closer ties are in line with Thailand's foreign policy, which places a high priority to the promotion of goodwill and a peaceful environment with the Indochinese states comprising Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.

Prime Minister Anan Delivers New Year Address

BK3112145591 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1309 GMT 31 Dec 91

[New Year address by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Respected fraternal Thai people, on the auspicious occasion that 1992 is approaching in a few hours, on behalf of the cabinet, I wish to invite all Thai people to solemnly convey greetings and evoke the power of the three gems and all sacred beings in this world to protect their majesties the king and queen and members of the royal family and bring them happiness and prosperity so that they will remain the center of the Thai nation forever.

In 1991 many changes occurred in various regions of the world. The change in some countries was not so violent, but drastic change took place in certain countries, rather extensively and rapidly affecting their administrative systems as well as their military, ruling, economic, and social policies. In any event, the changes were mostly positive, particularly in the Soviet Union and Cambodia which transformed the cold war and confrontation which had been going on in the world for over 50 years toward an unprecedented climate of peace and mutual understanding. At the same time, these changes contributed to people being able to play a greater role in determining the direction of their countries. In other words, the current of democracy has formed in every part of the world throughout 1991.

This phenomenon is gratifying because it enables governments all over the world to pay more attention to their national development. A greater share of valuable resources such as human and finanicial resources which were spent for amassing weapons and preparing for war will be used for development purposes.

Thailand will unavoidably be affected both directly and indirectly by the changes that took place, but these effects will largely be positive. In particular, peace in this region will result in a greater expansion of our markets and investment. At the same time, the peaceful climate permeating the world will provide an opportunity for our overall economy to achieve greater growth.

Respected Thai people, throughout the 10 months that I and my cabinet colleagues have carried out our administrative duties we have followed the situation and tried our utmost to create a foundation for every area of national development, as well as to prepare to cope with the situation and to exploit the changes that have taken place to benefit our country as much as possible.

I wish to inform you that this government has given importance to law and bureaucratic reform to make it easier and more convenient for the people to earn their livelihood and to promote competition in order to further stimulate a free economy. It has also reformed the tax system for greater fairness.

In addition to the need to create a mechanism for adjusting itself to the world situation, this government realizes that the country has many problems that must be resolved, particularly in the areas of environment, quality of life, and morality that are certain to multiply with time. For this reason, at the same time the government has devoted its attention to remedying domestic problems. You are probably aware that this government allocated a special fund of 6 billion baht for agricultural development to improve the living conditions of farmers in the rural areas, and set aside nearly 10 billion baht from the national budget for the provinces to independently tackle their problems in accordance with the decentralization policy with the hope that the individual provinces will be able to more effectively remedy their problems.

Meanwhile, the government is also paying attention to earnestly tackling the environmental and natural resource problems, as well as to developing the quality of life of the rural and urban people by laying down important foundations, particularly in the public health area. The government continues to uphold the policy of guaranteeing good health for all people in 1991 and has worked earnestly to achieve that goal. In education, the government's goal is to provide an opportunity for more Thai children to continue on to secondary education. In addition to the emphasis on seeing that Thai children are better educated and have greater knowledge, the government hopes that the new education system will instill morality and discipline in our youths so that they will become the main force for the country's future.

Dear Thai people, 1992 will be a very important year as well as a year of pride and blessing for the Thai people because the queen will turn 60. I encourage all of us to make it our determination to perform good deeds to commemorate the occasion. In addition, 1992 will be a year of democracy and elections. Certainly, you are aware that the general election will be held on 22 March. On behalf of the government whose duty it is to conduct and oversee an orderly and fair election, I pledge that the government will do everything to ensure the most honest and fair election possible.

Dear fraternal Thai people, on the auspicious New Year of 1992 I pray for the power of the three gems and all sacred beings to protect you and bring you greater happiness, prosperity, good luck, wisdom, and good morality so that you will become a major force together with the government in the development of our beloved country forever.

Happy New Year.

General Expounds Army's Security Strategy

BK0601050392 Bangkok THE MANAGER in English Dec 91 pp 21-23

[Interview with Major General Chaturit Phromsakha, Royal Thai Army Secretary by THE MANAGER; place and date not given]

[Text] Major General Chaturit Phromsakha, Secretary of the Army, responded in the highly formal interview to a set of questions that were developed as an outgrowth of the white paper's contents. Before he addressed the written inquiries, which he had received earlier, Gen Chaturit prefaced his remarks with an overall comment regarding the national defense strategy:

"The national security strategy is based on a policy of nonagression and self-defense designed to produce stability and to preserve the sovereignty of the country. In addition the strategy is focused on building good will with countries around the world...."

Manager: In a recent white-paper, the regional editor of a respected defense journal (Jane's Defence Weekly) has characterized the Royal Thai Army's (RTA's) transition from an effective counterinsurgency force to a conventional force as very incomplete. Do you agree with this general assessment and, if not, why?

Gen Chaturit: This journalist (Robert Karniol) has a complete misunderstanding of our basic assumptions. The military has a clear plan for self-defense that involves our national militia (as well as the rest of the armed forces). Also, his premise that we are simply attempting to become a standard conventional force is in error—the military has a much broader perspective and is a more flexible institution; it is organized to meet internal as well as external threats.

For example, the policies used to defeat the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) continue to play a role in our strategic thinking. The successful execution of these policies is a bright achievement for the military. In the end, we proved that the domino theory was incorrect—in fact it looks as though the dominoes have fallen the other way.

Now, though with the decline of world communism, we are reducing the size of our national militia.

Manager: What—in general terms—are its (the RTA's) major military deficiencies?

Maj Gen Chaturit: There is no deficiency in the military when taken as a whole. The RTA is not the only force to be considered. Overall defense is coordinated into a total strategy that includes the militia and other armed forces like the Navy and the Air Force.

At present, the RTA is undergoing stepped-up training, which contains exercises to improve morale that will, in turn, enhance both the strength and confidence of the troops.

There are also these points to be considered:

—The RTA plays a broader national role than basic defense. It also is involved in negotiations to build relations with neighbouring countries as well as performing civil duties.

—There is a requirement for an increased budget in the area of acquiring new technologies for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence (C3 I) as well as for air-defense systems. We are always in search of new ways to improve performance in these areas, but they must be in line with the national budget.

—There is a history of combat experience lodged within the RTA: Our personnel distinguished themselves in both the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Manager: In the most general terms, is the RTA well equipped?

Maj Gen Chaturit: The RTA is well equipped and is prepared to defend the nation's sovereignty. It is equipped to world standards, but for a defense based on a policy of nonagression.

Three things are always considered in preparing the RTA: the mission, the situation, and the level of threat. Each country must evolve its own standard—in terms of the above criteria—of just what 'preparedness' means.

Manager: Though reasonably effective at the battalion level, the RTA does not distinguish itself at the division level. How would you respond to this assessment?

Maj Gen Chaturit: Our divisions function because our chain of command is strong and because they are composed of well-trained battalions. We have infantry divisions, armored divisions, as well as artillery (in addition, the RTA has noncombat divisions).

Should any conflict occur, we expect that it will be at the battalion threat level. The primary factor, then, is that the main unit, the battalion, is well exercised and efficient. And, if that is true, and if the chain of command is good, then any division comprised of those battalions will function effectively. The battalions are further organized into regiments—three battalions for each. Since our chain of command is good, our divisions function well.

In terms of training, our main focus is to develop combat expertise at the battalion level. We do perform command-post exercises at the division level from time to time, however, depending on the situation. In Army Regions I and II—in the east—we emphasized larger mobilizations five years ago, for example, because the situation there was shaky, though now it is not.

(In light of the present situaion in the east,) we are hopeful that we can play a role in United Nations Transitional Authority of Cambodia (UNTAC). If the UN will agree, then we will be willing to participate. The RTA already has some relief programs that involve working with the Cambodians.

Manager: What do you think about the RTA's logistical sophistication? Has it improved since Ban Romklao?

Maj Gen Chaturit: All armies in the world face difficulties when it comes to logistical sophistication—even the superpowers. Two fundamental areas that come into play in logistics are: 1) quick response, and 2) continuous supply.

As for Ban Romklao; the RTA does not consider that it was a significant engagement. The important thing is that we are now at peace with the Laotian people.

There was a problem of geography, and we were lacking a special long-range artillery shell to overcome the situation. The Laotians had the high ground. In addition we only engaged battalion level forces.

As to our present logistical sophistication? We are working with the US military on developing ammunition stockpiles in accordance with operations guidelines.

Manager: What lessons can be learned from the RTA withdrawal in the 1988 engagement on the Laotian border in Ban Romklao?

Maj Gen Chaturit: Since we consider this to have been a minor combat engagement, we do not think that there is any particular lesson to be learned. Nobody else understands the entire situation as well as we do.

There were several (related) factors that contributed to the situation: 1) we operate under a policy of nonagression, 2) no policy justification existed to support an advance, and 3) there were obscure border markings. In the end it was in fact the Laotians who asked for a joint cessation of hostilities—the conflict was resolved through diplomacy. One last point to be added is that the military, of course, analyzes every engagement in terms of all its aspects, including logistical and communications concerns.

Manager: What steps could the RTA take to improve its present condition?

Maj Gen Chaturit: There are two major factors to be considered in the process of development: 1) the training of personnel, and 2) the proper utilization of the resulting forces.

The present policy is to reduce the actual numbers of troops while increasing their efficiency through training.

The work will be undertaken according to the military's secret five-year development plan, which has been designed to complement the Seventh National Economic and Social Development Plan.

We will concentrate on our mechanized forces: armor, mechanized infantry, motorized units and light infantry. These units are all organized at the division level. Furthermore, technological advances will be used to enhance capability in the following areas: personnel, intelligence, education and training, logistics, tactical doctrine and analysis.

Manager: How, in your opinion, would the RTA fare in an engagement with People's Army of Vietnam at this time?

Maj Gen Chaturit: We decline to answer this question, but will talk instead about our march toward peace and economic development with the Vietnamese people. Thailand and Vietnam have been developing a close relationship and operate together in many fields of endeavor. The high command from both sides have exchanged visits. We are at peace with each other.

Understanding the above—let it also be further understood that Thailand is always ready to defend its borders should any kind of conflict occur. The school of thought we were trained in teaches that when you are developing a military force the objective is always victory.

Manager: In your judgment, does the Thai Army's involvement in domestic affairs distract its high command from addressing the technical defense issues that it faces, issues such as improving its division level performance, logistics and training?

Maj Gen Chaturit: The Thai military's mission is defined differently than that of the military in other countries. We traditionally play a much broader role in the society and perform many functions typically given over to civilian agencies in other places.

This is supported by the body of Thai law that defines our role. Specifically, our mandate is to: 1) defend the country, 2) defend the monarchy, 3) deter insurgency forces within the country, 4) maintain national security, and 5) assist in the development of the country.

As for the last, a large number of personnel are given over to this process; there are four development divisions, and each one is stationed in a different Army Region: Bangkok, Korat, Phitsanulok and Nakhon Si Thammarat. These divisions are trained in flood relief, famine relief, forestry projects and engineering—the Army Corps of Engineers is active in this kind of work. In looking at the numbers of active personnel in our army you should subtract about eighty thousand—that is for the four divisions; as there are about twenty thousand men in each.

Manager: What, in your opinion, is the Thai Armed Forces' present state of readiness to fight a conventional war at the divisional level?

Maj Gen Chaturit: The answer to that has been covered in other questions; but, to be quite specific, the military stands ready.

Vietnam

POW Allegations Rejected as 'Sheer Fabrication'

BK0301145192 Hanoi VNA in English 1429 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 3—Oleg Kalugin, former director of the State Security Committee (KGB) of the former Soviet Union was quoted by Voice of America on Jan. 2, as telling a correspondent of the New York DAILY NEWS that KGB personnel had interviewed three Americans in Hanoi in 1978, and that about ten American servicemen continued to be detained in Vietnam long after the United States withdrew its troops from Vietnam in 1973.

VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY is authorised to declare: "Right after the signing of the Paris agreement in 1973, the Vietnamese Government returned all American prisoners of war to the U.S. Government. Mr. Kalugin's statement is a sheer fabrication. The repetition of such allegations is typical of the conduct of those who want to play upon the sufferings of the American people for their own interests. Vietnam categorically rejects Mr. Kalugin's allegation and reaffirms that no American prisoner of war had not been returned to the U.S. side after 1973."

Vo Van Kiet, Nguyen Manh Cam Receive Solarz

BK0301150992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] On 3 January 1992, Mr. Stephen Solarz, chairman of the Subcommittee for Asian and Pacific Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives, visited Vietnam on a fact-finding tour of some countries in the region.

Mr. Solarz was received by Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers. The chairman informed him of Vietnam's overall renovation and its independent and sovereign foreign policy in various forms.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet reaffirmed that Vietnam is determined to help the Paris agreement on Cambodia to be scrupulously implemented and Cambodia's sovereignty and independence to be respected so that the Cambodian people may choose their own government through truly free, equal, and democratic general elections.

On the MIA issue, Chairman Vo Van Kiet said that the Vietnamese Government, prompted by its humanitarianism and responsibility for hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese families as well as families of Americans missing in action, has cooperated and is cooperating fully with the U.S. side in solving this issue and other humanitarian questions left behind by the war. He stressed that the MIA issue had to be considered merely a humanitarian issue, and not be related to any political issues.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet also said that the early normalization of relations between the two countries benefits the two peoples, and conforms to peace and stability in the region.

Mr. Solarz was also received by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and held talks with Vice Foreign Minister Le Mai on issues of common concern.

U.S. Delegations Received by Justice Minister

BK0401070192 Hanoi VNA in English 0615 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 4—A delegation of the Asian Research Centre headed by its director Roger Rumf, and a delegation of the Utah State University led by Prof. Ms Sandra Taylor arrived here on Jan. 1 for a visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the Vietnam-U.S. Association.

The delegations were received by Phan Hien, minister of justice and president of the association who welcomed the visit as a good opportunity for strengthening the American people's understanding of Vietnam and broadening the exchange between the two peoples.

The Central Committee of the association arranged a get-together with the two delegations in the evening of Jan. 2.

The guests also met a number of economic managers, and scientific and educational cadres to inquire into the social, economic, and educational situation in Vietnam.

The American guests stressed that the prolongation of the U.S. embargo against Vietnam is unacceptable and pledged to work for the early normalisation of U.S.-Vietnam relations.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Japanese Delegation

BK0501161192 Hanoi VNA in English 1535 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 5—Japan has an important role in Vietnam's relations of friendship and cooperation with its neighbours, said Premier Vo Van Kiet while receiving here on Jan. 4 a high-level delegation of Japanese officials led by Diet member Kamei which has come to inquire into Vietnam's socio- economic situation in preparation for Japan's projects of cooperation with or assistance to Vietnam in the coming period.

Vo Van Kiet noted that the Vietnam-Japan relations have developed satisfactorily. But, he said, with deeper mutual understanding and higher determination on both sides to cooperate, these ties will further develop in the interests of the two peoples.

During its stay here, the Japanese delegation had working session with the state planning committee, and some concerned services to determine the areas of cooperation in the coming years and discuss other issues of common concern.

Leaders Receive Italian Foreign Minister

BK0501162192 Hanoi VNA in English 1540 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 5—Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis was warmly received here today on separate occasions by party General Secretary Do Muoi and Premier Vo Van Kiet.

Welcoming his guest, Do Muoi said he hoped the visit would mark a new step of development in the relations between Vietnam and Italy. He expressed satisfaction at the fine development in the friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He said he hoped that these relations would further consolidate and strengthen in the interests of the two countries and of peace and development in the world.

At his meeting with Premier Vo Van Kiet, the Italian foreign minister conveyed the Italian premier's invitation to him to visit Italy at a convenient time in 1992. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. The time for the visit will be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

Also here today, the Italian diplomat held talks with his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Manh Cam.

On behalf of the Vietnamese Government, Nguyen Manh Cam thanked Italian Government and the Italian foreign minister for their active assistance to Vietnam in establishing and strengthening its relations with the EEC and in normalising its relations with international financial and monetary organisations. He expressed hope that Italy would continue to work in this direction.

For his part, the Italian diplomat highly appreciated Vietnam's foreign policy of expanding and diversifying its relations, especially with Southeast Asian countries, China, international organizations, the republics in the former Soviet Union, European countries and other Western countries. He expressed Italy's desire to further develop the relations between the two countries, increase political contacts as well as cooperation in economy, science, and technology between the two countries. Italy, he said, will help Vietnam in its multilateral relations and in its relations with international organisations. He said the Italian Government had adopted development aid programmes for Vietnam in the 1993-95 period wnd will coordinate with other countries to continue to support Vietnam to unfreeze its relations with financial and monetary organisations and strengthen relations with the EEC.

Joint Memorandum Signed 2 Jan With Laos

BK0401152192 Hanoi VNA in English 1445 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 4 —A memorandum on economic, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation between Laos and Vietnam was signed in Vientiane, Thursday, reports KPL.

The memorandum said that last year, the trade value between the two countries doubled as compared with 1990 . It also highlighted the outcomes of a recent meeting of their technical delegations in preparation for the signing of cooperation agreements for 1992 and the 1992-1995 period.

Signatories to the memorandum were Khamsay Souphvouvong, first deputy minister of economy, planning and finance, and Tran Khai, vice president of the State Planning Commission of Vietnam and vice president of the Vietnam-Laos Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation Committee.

During his stay in the Laos capital, Tran Khai was received by Khamphoui Keoboualapha, vice prime minister, minister of economy, planning and finance of Laos.

Thai Military Delegation Due To Visit 6 Jan

BK0601115292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] A high-level military delegation of Thailand led by General Suchinda Khraprayun, supreme commander of the Armed forces and commander-in-chief of the Army of Thailand, will pay an official visit to Vietnam from 6 January.

The visit was made at the invitation of Senior Lieutenant General Dao Dinh Luyen, vice minister of National Defense, and chief of the General Staff of the Vietnamese People's Army.

Burmese Ambassador Gives Reception 4 Jan

BK0401153792 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 4—Mr Win Shein, ambassador of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] and his wife gave a reception here this evening to mark the 44th independence day of their country (Jan. 4).

Prominent among the Vietnamese guests were Phan Hien, minister of justice, and Vu Khoan, deputy foreign minister.

Also present were members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations in Hanoi.

Ambassador Win Shein and Minister Phan Hien raised toasts to the further consolidation and development of the friendship, solidarity and cooperation between Myanmar and Vietnam.

Cuban Ambassador Presents Credentials

BK0401152992 Hanoi VNA in English 1456 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 4—Cuban Ambassador to Vietnam Tania Maceira Degado today presented his credentials to Vice President of the State Council Mrs. Nguyen Thi Dinh. After the presentation, the Vietnamese vice president had a cordial conversation with the new Cuban ambassador.

Draft Amendments to Constitution, Part 1

BK0501102792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 30 Dec 91

["Forewords and Chapters One and Two" of Draft Amendments to 1980 Constitution]

[Text] Revised Forewords

The Vietnamese people who have worked laboriously and creatively and have struggled courageously to build and defend their country for thousands of years in history, have forged the traditions of solidarity, righteousness, stalwartness, and indomitableness of our nation, and have built Vietnamese civilization. Since 1930, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] founded and trained by President Ho Chi Minh, our people had staged the long, dangerous, and hard revolutionary struggle leading to the victorious August Revolution, and on 2 September 1945, established the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Then, throughout several decades, the people of all nationalities in our country with precious assistance of friends worldwide, especially the socialist countries, and with the solidarity and mutual help of the Lao and Cambodian peoples, defeated colonialists and imperialists in two cruel wars of aggression to liberate and reunify the country.

After fulfilling the national democratic revolution, our people had firmly defended the country, performed their international duties, and brought the entire country into the period of transition to socialism. At the historical session of the unified National Assembly in July 1976, our country took the name of Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV]. As yet, our country has adopted three constitutions in 1946, 1959 and 1980. Since 1986, our people have carried out a comprehensive renovation process initiated by the sixth party congress and have made very important initial achievements. The National Assembly has decided to amend the 1980 Constitution to meet the requirements of the new revolutionary stage.

As the fundamental law of the state, the Constitution stipulates the political, economic, cultural, and social systems; the basic rights and duties of citizens; and the operational structures and principles of various state agencies. It institutionalizes the relations between the people's control, the state management, and the party leadership.

In light of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought, and following the platform for national construction in the period of transition to socialism, our people resolve to implement President Ho Chi Minh's testament as well as pledge to unite singlemindedly; uphold the spirit of independence, sovereignty, and self-reliance; implement the foreign policy of peace, friendship, and cooperation; scrupulously abide by the Constitution; and win even greater victories in renovating, building, and defending the country.

Revised Chapter 1

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam and its political system

Revised Article 1. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is an independent, sovereign and unified country with territorial integrity which is composed of the mainland, islands, air, and sea zones.

Revised Article 2. The SRV state is of the people, by the people, and for the people. All state power belongs to the people based on the worker-peasant-intellectual alliance.

Revised Article 3. The state warrants and constantly promotes the people's right to comprehensive mastery, severely punishes all acts encroaching on the interests of the country and the people, builds the country into a prosperous and strong one, and achieves social justice for everyone to enjoy a life of plenty, freedom, and happiness, and to have conditions for comprehensive development.

Revised Article 4. The CPV is a vanguard unit of the Vietnamese working class, loyally represents the interests of the working class, laboring people, and entire nation; follows Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought; and is a leading force of the state and society. All party organizations operate within the framework of the Constitution and law.

Revised Article 5. The SRV state is a unified state of the people of all nationalities who live on Vietnamese territory. It implements the policy of equality, solidarity, and mutual help among all nationalities, and strictly forbids all discriminatory and divisive behaviors among nationalities. All nationalities are authorized to use their own languages and writings, preserve their own characters, and develop their fine customs, mores, traditions, and cultures. The state implements the policy of comprehensive development, and step by step raises the material and moral lives of the ethnic minority people.

Revised Article 6. The people use state power through the National Assembly and the people's councils which are elected by the people to represent their will and aspirations, and are responsible to the people. The National Assembly, the people's councils and other state agencies are all organized and operating according to the principle of democratic centralization.

Revised Article 7. The elections of National Assembly deputies and people's council delegates are conducted in accordance with the universal, equal, direct, and secret ballot principles. The National Assembly deputies and the people's council delegates may be impeached by voters or the National Assembly or the people's councils if they are deemed not deserving of the people's confidence.

Revised Article 8. All state agencies, cadres, and employees must respect the people, wholeheartedly and devotedly serve the people, maintain a close relationship with the people, listen to the people's views, and accept the people's supervision, and resolutely struggle against all manifestations of bureaucracy, arrogance, authoritarianism, and corruption.

Revised Article 9. The Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] is composed of the CPV, the Vietnam Confederation of Workers [VCW], the Vietnam Association of Peasants [VAP], the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union [HCMCYU], the Vietnam Women's Union [VWU] and other members of the front. It serves as the political base and firm fulcrum for the state. The front promotes the traditional solidarity of all the people; intensifies political and spiritual singlemindedness among the people; participates in building and consolidating the people's administration; and mobilizes the people to uphold their sense of mastery, scrupulously implement the Constitution and law, and supervise the activities of state agencies, cadres and employees.

Revised Article 10. The VCW is a politico-social organization of the working class and laborers. Together with state agencies and socioeconomic organizations, it cares for and protects the interests of workers and civil servants and other laborers. It participates in controlling and supervising the operations of state agencies and economic organizations, and educates cadres, workers, and civil servants and other laborers on national construction and defense.

Revised Article 11. All citizens who work in state agencies and socioeconomic organizations in populous areas and other units and installations, or who participate in various works of the state and society, are dutybound to protect public property and the people's legitimate interests, defend national security, social order and public safety, and organize public life in primary installations.

Revised Article 12. The state administers the society by law and constantly strengthens the socialist legal system. State agencies and socioeconomic organizations, cadres and combatants of the people's armed forces units, state cadres and employees, personnel of socioeconomic organizations, and all other citizens must scrupulously abide by the Constitution and law, and struggle to prevent and fight crimes and all deeds at variance with the Constitution and law. All acts violating the legal rights and interests of the state, collectives, and citizens must be dealt with in accordance with the law.

Revised Article 13. The SRV fatherland is sacred and inviolable. All schemes and acts against the independence, sovereignty, unification, and territorial integrity of the fatherland as well as against the cause of national construction and defense will be seriously dealt with in accordance with the law.

Revised Article 14. The SRV state pursues a policy of peace, friendship, and expanding international relations and cooperation with all countries in the world regardless of their different political and social systems, on the basis of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit; strengthens the solidarity, friendship, and traditional cooperation relations with neighboring countries; and actively supports and contributes to the world people's common struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress.

Revised Chapter 2

The Economic System

Article 15, new. The state develops the multisectorial commodity economy in accordance with the market, based on state management and socialist orientations. The long-lasting existence of the multisectorial economic structure depends on the system of ownership of the entire people, collectives, and private parties, of which the system of ownership of the entire people and collectives constitutes the key element.

Article 16, new: It is the objective of the state economic policy to meet the people's material and spiritual needs more and more satisfactorily by releasing all labor forces; by bringing into full play the potentialities of different forms of economic activities of the state, collective, individual, private capitalist, and state capitalist economies; by accelerating the building of material and technical bases; by promoting economic and scientific-technical cooperation; and by reaching out to the world market.

Article 17, revised Article 19: The lands, forests and mountains, rivers and lakes, water sources, natural resources in the ground and the territorial seas as well as on the continental shelf; capital and assets that the state invests in the various enterprises and projects falling under different economic, cultural, social, scientific-technical, diplomatic, and national security and national defense programs and other property defined by law as belonging to the state are under the ownership of the entire people.

Article 18, revised Article 20: Lands are put under state management according to plans and laws to ensure that they are utilized according to set goals and bring about results.

The state allots land to the various organizations and individuals for use on a long-term basis. Organizations and individuals who use the land have the responsibility to protect, replenish, and exploit it in a rational and economical way. They may give the right of inheritance to other organizations and invidiuals or may transfer the right to use the alloted land as specified under the law.

Article 19, new: The state economy must be consolidated and developed in key sectors and areas of operations so that it can assume a leading role in the national economy. State economic establishments have the right to autonomy in production and business transactions and are responsible for the results of their operations. They must preserve and expand the capital and other assets allotted to them and also have the right to mobilize capital to expand production and business operations or embark on joint ventures with other economic sectors. They must guarantee effective production and business operations and must fulfill their obligations to the state.

Article 20, new: Based on the principle of volunteerism, democracy, and mutual benefit, workers may contribute capital and manpower to different forms of joint production or business cooperation projects undertaken by collective economic organizations on different scopes and at appropriate levels of collectivization.

The state encourages and helps with the consolidation and expansion of collective economic organizations which operate efficiently. The individual economy may operate in the various trades and professions as specified under the law.

The household economy is encouraged to develop.

Article 21, revised Article 24: Organizations and invdiduals have the right to form business organizations without any limits on scope and areas of operations. The private capitalist economy may develop in those sectors beneficial to the nation and people as specified under the law and may participate in different forms of joint ventures with the state economic organizations and business establishments.

Article 22, new: Business organizations belonging to the different economic sectors may enter joint ventures with foreign nationals and foreign economic organizations as specified under the law. The legal holdings of these business organizations are protected by the state. Business organizations belonging to different economic sectors are equal before the law.

Article 23, revised Article 28: The state may, when it deems it truly necessary to serve national security and defense goals as well as national interests, purchase or requisition with compensation the property of individuals or organizations based on the market prices in effect.

The procedures for purchase or requisition are defined by law.

Article 24, revised Article 21: The state broadens and applies a uniform management system to external economic relations; establishes diversified, multisided economic relations with all nations and international organizations on the principle of respect for each other's independence and sovereignty as well as mutual benefit; and takes appropriate measures to protect local production.

Article 25, new: The state encourages international organizations and foreign nationals to invest capital and technology in Vietnam in accordance with Vietnamese law and international law and practices. The state guarantees the right of ownership of the legitimate capital, property, and other interests of the various international organizations and foreign nationals. Foreign investment-funded enterprises shall not be subjected to nationalization.

Article 26, new: The state manages the national economy according to a set of laws, plans, policies, and other regulatory means. It defines responsibility, decentralizes its managerial power to the various echelons and sectors, and harmoniously combines its own interests with the interests of other organizations and individuals.

Article 27, revised Article 30: It is necessary to strictly practice thrift in all socioeconomic activities and state management. The state promulgates incentive policies to encourage organizations and individuals to practice thrift in production and consumption.

Article 28, revised Article 35: The law severely punishes speculation, smuggling, swindling, fake goods production, illegal business transactions that upset the market and undermine the national economy, corruption, theft, bribery, waste, and irresponsible actions that seriously damage the interests of the state, collectives, and the people.

The state adopts a policy aimed at protecting the rights of producers and consumers.

Article 29, revised Article 36: State organs, units of the Armed Forces, economic and social organizations, and individuals have the duty to implement the state policy of protecting, transforming, renewing, and developing natural resources, and of protecting and improving the life environment. All acts of destroying and depleting the environment are strictly prohibited.

Vo Chi Cong Article Views Revised Constitution

BK0401073992 Hanoi VNA in English 0652 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 4—The press here on January 3 published a long article by Vo Chi Cong, advisor to the party Central Committee, president of the State Council and president of the Constitutionl Amendment Committee, on the significance and the content of the revised 1980 constitution which has just been published for people's discussion before going to the National Assembly for adoption in March this year. Excerpts of the article follow:

"The National Assembly has decided to revise the 1980 Constitution instead of promulgating a new one, that is because although the new development period has the character of a turning point, the direction of social development in our country remains unchanged, i.e. to continue the transition to socialism, the continuity and inheritance of the Constitutions and more particulation [as received] of the 1980 Constitution and the revised Constitution must be ensured.

As time passes we have better understood that there will be no ready model for us to copy on our way to socialism since the transitional period in our country has its specific characters. Surely we need time and transitional steps, measures and methods which should be sought for and tested in reality in order to change from an old model to which we have been too much accustomed to a completely new one; natural law requires that the new can emerge only when there are enough prerequisites for its emergence.

The newly issued draft revised Constitution reflects the following basic viewpoints:

1. It affirms the socialist goal opted for by President Ho Chi Minh, our party and people by applying Marxist-Leninist principles to the practice of our country with the necessary adjustment to make it conformable to the first stage of the transition period, it affirms the continued renewal of every aspect of social life begun five years ago, first of all the economy, simultaneously with politics in a steady way and along the socialist orientation.

2. It affirms that our state by its nature is a state of the people, by the people and for the people, founded on the alliance between workers, peasants and intellectuals, operating in revised forms and with revised measures and methods conforming with the first stage of the transition period.

3. It institutionalizes the citizen's rights to democratic freedoms in his position as master of society, these freedoms being a component of socialist democracy, the draft also affirms that the citizen's rights do not exist independently from his obligations, the right to democratic freedoms can be ensured only on the basis of respect for social order, active prevention of the abuse of power and bureaucracy as well as anarchy, indiscipline and violations of law and socal order.

The draft affirms and institutionalises the leading role of the Communist Party of Vietnam, but it is important to clearly distinguish between the function of a party organization and that of the state. There must not be confusion between the party organization and the state. There must not be confusion between the party organization and the state apparatus. The party organization must act along the principles set in the party statute, while the state offices must be organized and operate in accordance with the powers and tasks defined by the constitution and law. The party organization must not solve questions belonging to the state. A party member in the state apparatus works and discharges his responsibilities according to law and with powers and tasks corresponding to his state title and he must fulfill his duty as a state employee.

The draft revised Constitution retains the same composition and the same number of chapters and articles of the 1980 Constitution, i.e. a preamble, 12 chapters and 147 articles. But it includes many major changes. Two-thirds of the articles have been amended.

Twenty two articles in the chapter on economic system of the 1980 Constitution have been rewritten into only 15 articles, affirming the policy of developing the multi-sector commodity economy within the state-controlled market mechanism and along the socialist orientation. It recognizes the long existance of the multi-sector economic structure with many forms of ownership, by the entire people, by the collective and by private citizens in which the ownership by the entire people and the collective is the cornerstone.

Another important amendment is the recognition of the right of organizations and individuals to use land over a long period and their inheritance to use and assign land according to law.

Organizations and individuals also have the right to set up business enterprises without limitations as to the size and fields of operation. They can enter joint ventures with economic and business organizations of the state in various forms or with foreign individuals or economic organizations as stipulated by law. The state guarantees the lawful ownership of capital, properties, and other interests of foreign organizations and individuals. The enterprises which have foreign investment capital shall not be nationalized.

A question of decisive significance for our state at present is to ensure discipline and order on the principle of democratic centralism.

Different from the present Constitution, the State Council will function as the permanent office of the National Assembly. The function and a number of powers and tasks of the head of state will be assumed by the president of the State Council.

This aims to clearly define the function of the permanent office of the National Assembly and the function of the head of state.

To clearly define the supervisory function of the National Assembly and the function of the State Council as an executive office of the government, the draft stipulates that except the prime minister, the other members of the government are not necessarily National Assembly deputies, instead only a few number of the Council of Ministers should cumulate the function of National Assembly deputies. [as received]

Stemming from the view that the state is one and the state power is unified, and there cannot be a central state and a local state, the draft makes it clear that the people's council at various levels is an office representing the local people, their aspiration, and their right to mastery. It is not a state organ of power in the locality as stipulated in the 1980 Constitution.

There are also amendments to the provisions on the Supreme People's Court and Supreme People's Inspectorate. The organisation of these two offices will be renovated to heighten their role and effect as law-enforcement and defence organs, strengthen socialist legislation, defend the interests of the state, organizations, offices, the lawful interests and human rights of the citizens.

Assembly Resolution To Approve Decision 472

BK0301131592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] The SRV National Assembly—by virtue of Article 83 of the Constitution, Article Nine of the Business Tax Law, and Article Nine of the Law on Special Consumption Tax, and acting on the Council of State's proposal and statements made by the National Assembly deputies—hereby resolves:

To approve Decision 472 of the Council of State on 10 September 1991 on the amendment of some tax rates of the tax scale of the Business Tax Law and the Law on Special Consumption Tax.

This resolution was passed by the SRV Eighth National Assembly in its 10th session on 26 December 1991.

Signed by Chairman of the National Assembly Le Quang Dao.

Resolution Passed on National Assembly Term

BK0301131192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Jan 92

[Text] The SRV National Assembly, by virtue of Article 84 of the constitution and Article Five of the Law on the Organization of the National Assembly and the Council of State, in order to have favorable conditions and time for a good preparation of the draft amended constitution, the laws on the organization of the state apparatus, and the organization of the Ninth National Assembly deputy election and acting on the Council of State's proposal, hereby resolves:

1. To extend the term of the Eighth National Assembly for three months until 30 September 1992 at the latest.

2. The Council of State, the Council of Ministers, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Organ of Control, the Nationalities Council, and the standing committees of the National Assembly, as part of their functions, have the responsibility to implement this resolution.

This resolution was passed by the SRV Eighth National Assembly in its 10th session on 26 December 1991.

Signed by National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao.

Vietsovpetro Taps Almost 4 Million Tonnes of Oil

BK0601080792 Hanoi VNA in English 0549 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 6—By December 31 the Vietnamese-Soviet oil and gas joint enterprise (Vietsovpetro) had tapped 3,956,000 tons worth USd [U.S. dollars] 582.4 million.

The enterprise had put into operation 10 new oil wells and drilled one more well expected to give a large oil output at the Rong oil field.

In 1992 , the enterprise plans to tap 4.8 millions of crude oil, and put 12 more oil wells into production, and start exploiting the Rong area.

Tourist Activities in 1991 Noted

BK0601085392 Hanoi VNA in English 0542 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 6—About 300,000 foreign tourists arrived in Vietnam in 1991, up by 16 percent over the previous year. The tourist service has served 1.5 million Vietnamese tourists.

Also last year the service grossed VND 811 million and USD 35 million.

A group of Japanese tourists led by Mr. Yoshiyuki Kamei, M.P., on January 4 paid a new year visit to the Vung Tau Tourist Company (Intourco).

Spring Fair Includes Products, Firms From China

BK0401070592 Hanoi VNA in English 0617 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 4—Spring Fair-1992 opened at the Giang Vo exhibition centre today.

The fair has 200 pavilions displaying and selling products from 12 provinces and cities of Vietnam and 13 production and business groups from six provinces and cities of China.

Cultural and sports programmes are also on the agenda of the exhibition centre.

It will last till February 1st or the 28th of the 12th month of the lunar calendar.